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'Today was important because the people no longer have any fear'

Lio Heung Shing/The Associated Press

Supporters of Boris N. Yeltsin, the Russian leader, during protest Thursday in Moscow. The police kept demonstrators away from Manezh Square, site of a planned rally.

Gorbachev's Ban Fails To Halt Yeltsin Rally, Huge Protest Is Calm

By Serge Schmemann
New York Times Service

MOSCOW — More than 100,000 citizens on Thursday defied a huge show of military force and President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's ban on public meetings to rally behind his rival, Boris N. Yeltsin.

Chanting "Yeltsin! Yeltsin!" and "Gorbachev, go away!" within sight of the extraordinary cordon of military vehicles, water cannon and troops in riot gear, the throng demonstrated the embattled Soviet president's impotence to suppress the growing shift of allegiance to Mr. Yeltsin, the popular Russian Republic president.

The mass evening demonstration in Mayakovsky Square concluded a day of high drama and suspense as hundreds of military vehicles clogged the narrow alleys of old Moscow and the Soviet and Russian parliaments met separately to rally behind their feuding leaders.

Interior Minister Boris K. Pugo said 50,000 troops had been deployed in the city alongside the police to reinforce a ban on public meetings ordered by Mr. Gorbachev.

As the day drew to a close, the consensus was that Mr. Gorbachev had suffered a serious political setback. Despite all the tensions, the evening rallies had an almost festive air as Mr. Yeltsin's supporters realized that they had successfully defied Mr. Gorbachev's most aggressive effort to date to curb their movement and to rout their leader.

No incidents were reported, and most marchers appeared to agree with the urgent appeals of organizers not to give the Kremlin the satisfaction of confronting the massive walls of troops sealing the old city center.

Within hours after the rallies ended, the cordon was lifted, and the troops and trucks left the center.

Mr. Yeltsin's political success was sweetened by the fact that the special session of the Russian parliament, of which he is the president, was called by Communist legislators to censure him for his demand last month that Mr. Gorbachev resign. The Communists had evidently hoped to portray Mr. Yeltsin as a politician waging a personal vendetta at a time of economic and national crisis.

Instead, the session turned into a show of strength for Mr. Yeltsin as the deputies voted to reject Mr. Gorbachev's ban on rallies and then suspended its session until Friday, after the troops were withdrawn.

The mass rally was originally called by Mr. Yeltsin's supporters to coincide with the opening of the special session, which seemed at the time to pose a serious threat to his leadership.

The referendum on March 17, however, in which the Russian Republic gave a strong endorsement to a popularly elected president and so showed their support for Mr. Yeltsin, signaled to the Kremlin that the Russian leader was gathering strength. The shift was further demonstrated by a spreading strike of coal miners demanding the resignation of Mr. Gorbachev.

As the extraordinary parliamentary session drew close, Mr. Gorbachev on Monday unexpectedly ordered a ban on all political rallies, and the next day he put the Moscow police under the control of the Kremlin. The Moscow City Council promptly branded the usurpation of its powers as unconstitutional and renewed its authorization for the rallies.

The scene was set for the political showdown.

Starting Wednesday evening, convoys of military vehicles began to enter the city. Some were packed with special Interior Ministry and army troops; others were empty vehicles intended to block streets.

By noon Thursday, rows of trucks lined virtually every side street in central Moscow and the approaches to Red Square, and water cannon took up positions.

Andrew Rosenthal of The New York Times reported from Washington:

The United States on Thursday urged Mr. Gorbachev to lift his ban on protests in Moscow "as soon as possible" and said that any attempt to use force to stop demonstrations would violate Soviet commitments to human rights under the Helsinki accords.

"The current political crisis in the Soviet Union cannot be resolved through confrontation," said Roman Popadiuk, a White House spokesman.

Richard A. Boucher, a State Department deputy spokesman, said the American concerns were relayed to the Soviet Embassy in Washington on Wednesday by Secretary of State James A. Baker 3d, and to senior Soviet officials in Moscow by Ambassador Jack F. Matlock Jr.

The language of the statement, especially its evocation of the 1975 Helsinki agreements, was reminiscent of American protests over Soviet behavior in the years before Mr. Gorbachev came to power. It came at a time when Moscow and Washington were at odds over Soviet behavior toward the Baltics and over arms control issues involving a completed but unratified treaty on conventional weapons and a proposed accord on long-range nuclear weapons.

But the statement appeared primarily to put on the record American concerns about Mr. Gorbachev's attempts to stop demonstrations in Moscow, and administration officials said it did not signal any serious new tensions between the two superpowers.

"The status of U.S.-Soviet relations continues to be good," Mr. Popadiuk said. "This underscores the strength of the relationship that we can have disagreements and make points to them and yet continue to work on issues of mutual bilateral concern."

For Soviet Protesters, a Compelling Sense of Duty

By David Remnick
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — Maria Akimova, a research scientist with two children at home, knew the day could end for her in tragedy. She knew the Kremlin had flooded central Moscow with troops and policemen to prevent the pro-democracy movement she supports from marching on the Kremlin.

"I didn't care," she said. "It's my duty as a citizen to protest."

By early evening, as a wet snow began to fall over the tens of thousands of people on Mayakovsky Square who defied the recent Kremlin order barring demonstrations, she said she felt at once relieved and victorious. The protesters avoided a violent confrontation by staying out of the most heavily guarded areas of the city, but they rallied all the same, showing the strength of their numbers and spirit.

"That we managed to live out the day does not solve our problems," she said. "But history will show that today was important because the people no longer have any fear. The authorities tried to scare us with water cannons, with truncheons and all the rest. We came here knowing there could be blood, but we came anyway. We will not be ruled by fear any longer."

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's three-week-old ban on rallies in Moscow during the current emergency session of the Russian Republic's parliament, and his order stripping the Moscow City Council of control of the capital's police force, appeared to galvanize the opposition movement, which is led by the Russian Republic's president, Boris N. Yeltsin.

"I'd never come to a rally before, but today we were challenged by Gorbachev," said Nikolai Kazantsov, a computer programmer. "Finally it was impossible to sit at home and do nothing."

Around the most central squares of the city — Manezh and Red squares — there were barricades, endless rows of military trucks, policemen on horseback, KGB troops and militiamen waiting in buses.

Had Kremlin officials and the leaders of the opposition group Democratic Russia not worked out a last-minute deal to finesse a direct confrontation, the potential for violence would have been very high.

The protesters, many of them carrying signs demanding the resignation of Mr. Gorbachev and his government, gathered instead at 5:30 P.M. in two slightly less central locations: Arbat and Mayakovsky squares.

Instead of heading toward the Kremlin, as had been the

See RALLY, Page 2

Seoul Swaps Fighters In Blow to McDonnell

By David E. Sanger
New York Times Service

SEOUL — In a surprising reversal in one of America's biggest arms deals, the South Korean government said Thursday it was dropping the McDonnell Douglas Corp. from a $5 billion program to build fighter planes for its air force, and would award the contract instead to General Dynamics Corp., the maker of the F-16.

The sudden change came after months of disputes between South Korea and McDonnell Douglas over escalating costs for the fighter project, which Korean officials said had skyrocketed after they chose McDonnell's F-18 fighter more than a year ago. But defense analysts here said they also believed that the Gulf war had a major effect on the decision, persuading South Korea's Defense Ministry that the less expensive F-16 could face down the best Soviet-made equipment flown by North Korea.

The decision is a huge blow to McDonnell Douglas, which has already said it would lay off thousands of workers because of losses on a new commercial jet project and Pentagon budget cutbacks. But it is a major victory for General Dynamics, which in 1989 was awarded the prime contract for one of the most controversial weapons-and-technology sales of recent times: Japan's FSX fighter.

The fate of the Korean fighter program has been closely followed here, especially at a time when South Koreans say they are more confused than ever about the intentions of Kim Il Sung, the aged and increasingly isolated North Korean leader. Seoul is only a few minutes flight from the demilitarized zone that separates North and South, so the type of aircraft chosen to defend the capital is viewed as especially critical.

In announcing the decision, Defense Minister Lee Jong Koo gave few details. But he suggested that the chief motivation was economic.

See DEAL, Page 8

Iraq Reports It Retook Kurdish City

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NICOSIA — Iraq said Thursday night that government forces had retaken the northern oil center of Kirkuk, the most important city held by Kurdish rebels.

"The city of Kirkuk has been totally cleared of pockets of resistance led by agents supported by regimes hostile to Iraq," the Iraqi press agency INA, quoting Iraqi television, said in a dispatch monitored in Cyprus.

Kurdish rebels reported on Thursday morning that government forces had launched a major assault to retake the city 250 kilometers (150 miles) north of Baghdad. There was no immediate word from the rebels on the result of the day's fighting.

Baghdad radio said Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of President Saddam Hussein's governing Revolution Command Council, "visited the city at midday and toured Kirkuk's streets and lanes after utter defeat was inflicted on the cliques of subversion and robbery."

INA said that film of "liberated Kirkuk" was shown on Baghdad television on Thursday evening.

(Reuters, AFP)

■ Rebel Gains Reported

Youssef M. Ibrahim of The New York Times reported Thursday from Cairo:

Tehran radio and pro-Iranian Muslim rebels claimed that Shiite rebels had retaken the southern city of Karbala after a series of government successes in capturing a dozen southern cities near the Iranian borders more than a week ago.

A spokesman for the pro-Iranian Dawa Islamic party claimed that Shiite rebels had retaken Karbala on Thursday and that Iraqi helicopters were circling the town dropping leaflets warning the populace to leave the city. This report could not be confirmed here, but Arab diplomats said a major ground force of Iraqi troops was advancing toward Kirkuk.

These developments took place as the official Iraqi newspaper, Al Qadissiya, vowed for the first time since the Gulf war ended to "settle all accounts with neighboring countries that have conspired against Iraq," adding that Iraq remained a military and political force that could not be written off.

The Kurdish leaders of the rebellion in the north appealed to the West and the United Nations to

See IRAQ, Page 2

Kiosk

Italy Cabinet Will Resign

ROME (Reuters) — Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti will announce the resignation of his government on Friday, a senior official said Thursday.

He said Mr. Andreotti, head of the Christian Democrats, would formally declare the end of Italy's 49th government since World War II following the defection of the Socialists, the second largest party in his five-party coalition.

The Socialists told Mr. Andreotti on Thursday that only a new government with a new program could continue to lead the country to the end of the current legislature in 1992.

General News

Six republic presidents held "concrete" talks on Yugoslavia's crisis. Page 2.

Sports

Pitcher Fernando Valenzuela was released by the Los Angeles Dodgers. Page 14.

Business / Finance

IBM will cut 14,000 jobs this year. Page 7.

Crossword Page 13.
Weather Page 2.

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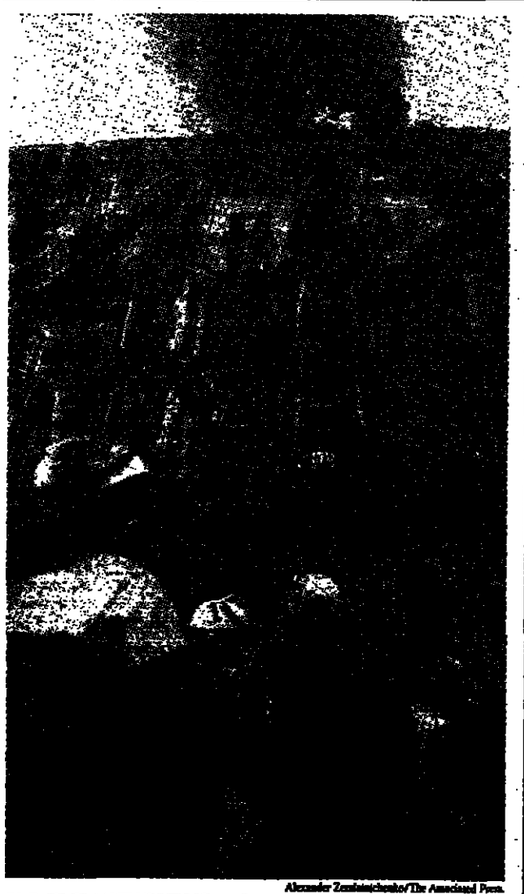


Alexander Zemlianichenko/The Associated Press

U.S. EMBASSY BURNS — Flames sweeping through the main building of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow on Thursday. The fire apparently destroyed the building's secret "core area." Page 2.

New Singapore Leader Starts to Loosen Reins

But Liberalization Remains Limited

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — The government of Singapore, long criticized for reliance on authoritarian controls, is pushing ahead with a program of gradual liberalization that promises to make the prosperous island-state a less restrictive society.

While some of the easing began under Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, who ruled Singapore for 31 years, most of the changes have taken place since he stepped aside in November to make way for Goh Chok Tong, a younger, more affable leader.

The government announced recently that it would relax rigorous film censorship, permit additional foreign television channels to operate in competition with state-controlled TV and allow banks and businesses — but not households or hotels — to acquire direct-broadcast satellite TV dishes, which were previously illegal.

The government has also said it will introduce greater flexibility into the education system, and encourage Singaporeans to air grievances and make suggestions for improvements in government policy.

Singapore journalists report that the bureaucracy was more forthcoming with information.

"Generally the trend is towards more sophisticated, more media-literate public relations officers, instead of those whose mission is to keep everything guarded and secret," said Cherian George, a reporter with the English-language Straits Times.

But analysts said that the changes introduced so far were limited in scope and did not affect the government's power to control the press or the activities of political opponents.

The government runs all TV and broadcasting stations in Singapore. It issues annual printing licenses to all news publications and has the the right to exercise management shares that carry overwhelming voting rights in major local newspaper companies.

A 1986 amendment to the Newspaper and Printing Presses Act gave Singaporean authorities the right to restrict the circulation of foreign publications deemed to have "engaged" in the domestic politics of Singapore.

Sales of the Asian Wall Street Journal and the Far Eastern Economic Review were curbed in 1987 after the government accused those publications of meddling in local politics and refusing to print official responses to alleged "errors and distortions of fact."

The Journal, a daily newspaper, and the Review, a weekly magazine, later stopped their distribution in Singapore.

Opposition political parties must obtain official approval to hold public rallies and print party pamphlets.

The liberalizations do not curb the government's power, under the Internal Security Act, to detain

See LIMITS, Page 2

Kuwaiti Officers Say Order Was Not to Fight

Reuters

KUWAIT — Kuwaiti Air Force officers flew home from captivity in Iraq on Thursday and said their commanders had ordered them not to fight the Iraqi Army when it invaded Kuwait in August.

"The orders given to us were not to fight from the first day," said Captain Ismail Ashkanani, 30. "Because of that, they captured us on the first day."

First Lieutenant Anwar Abdul-Khalil said, "We received an order not to fight."

Asked why commanders had given this order, Lieutenant Abdul-Khalil said: "Because there were a lot of Iraqis. If we fought, the whole of Kuwait would be a graveyard."

About 150 officers taken prisoner in the first hours of the Iraqi invasion arrived Thursday in Kuwait, looking dazed but well.

Iraq agreed to free more than 5,000 Kuwaiti prisoners this week as part of a preliminary cease-fire agreement with the allies.

Captain Fawzi Abdul-Jader, 31, said his squadron had received orders "not to shoot anybody unless they shoot us."

Most officers said the Iraqi invasion on Aug. 2 was so swift that they had had little time to do anything but think about evacuating their planes from Kuwait.

Lieutenant Abdul-Khalil said some of his colleagues were upset by the order not to fight but he agreed with it.

"Some thought about it and said, 'Why should we fight?'" he said. "If we fight we will kill ourselves and our families."

Lieutenant Abdul-Khalil said the Kuwaiti government should have invited the U.S. Air Force in two weeks before the invasion because Iraq's intentions were already clear at that time.

On Thursday, the officers arriving at the Kuwait airport embraced army commanders who greeted them. They were then reunited with their families at a community hall in the city.

At the community center, hun-

See KUWAIT, Page 2

700-Year Angst in Utopia: Whither Switzerland?

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

GENEVA — The sleek Porsches and Rolls-Royces still ply the elegant corniche here along the rim of Lake Geneva. Not far away, the posh winter playgrounds of Gstaad and Saint-Moritz lure the royal and the rich to their manicured ski slopes. The bank vaults of Zurich are more crammed than ever with the gold bullion, the cash and the jewelry that constitute some of the world's largest fortunes.

But all is not well in paradise.

This year is the 700th anniversary of Switzerland's birth, and instead of congratulating themselves on an enviable history of peace and prosperity, the Swiss are using the occasion to search their souls and ruminate about their place in the modern world.

To the dismay of tourism boosters who wanted to extol the idyllic virtues of the Alpine confederation, the exercise has produced a troubling portrait of a land where police powers are extraordinarily intrusive, where political scandal has shaken pride in public service, and where rising heroin consumption may be feeding some of the country's biggest secret bank accounts.

"There is no question that we are going through an identity crisis," said Thomas Jenny, a Swiss government official who is directing the information department for the anniversary. "That's why we did not want a celebration like the American bicentennial in 1976. The idea is to redefine Switzerland by examining our internal problems, and by looking at our future role in Europe and in the 21st century."

Much of Switzerland's anxiety about the future is focused on the 12-nation European Community's drive for greater economic and political unity, which many Swiss citizens fear may leave their neutral country more isolated than ever.

The collapse of Communist governments in Eastern Europe, the swift pace of German reunification and the end of the Cold War has jolted the smug Swiss conception of the world.

Suddenly, the nation's extensive network of nuclear bomb shelters, burrowed deep under the mountains and equipped to house every Swiss man, woman and child, began to look like a ludicrous extravagance as the East-West military confrontation waned.

Many German-speakers, who represent about two-thirds of the country's 6.6 million people, are worried that their culture may be smothered by the merger that has created a single powerful nation of 80 million Germans.

The Swiss have jealously guarded their independence ever since the mountain farmers living among four valleys around Lake Lucerne pledged an "eternal alliance" in

See UTOPIA, Page 2

In Albania, Things 'Are Looking Up' For the Opposition

By David Binder
New York Times Service

PESHKOPI, Albania — A day in the life of an opposition candidate for the Albanian presidency begins soon after dawn in a modest apartment. It continues with a campaign speech for state television, an eight-hour drive to two election rallies in eastern Albania and ends a little after midnight at the offices of his party newspaper in Tirana, the capital.

Dr. Sali Berisha, leader of the three-month-old Democratic Party, is heading the campaign to defeat the Communist Party, which has ruled this country since November 1944. Until late last year, he worked at the University of Tirana as one of Albania's leading cardiologists. He was also a member of the Communist Party.

An anti-Communist protest by thousands of university students catapulted him into a nascent opposition movement, and on Dec. 12 he and eight friends founded the Democratic Party.

In the last three months, Dr. Berisha and a handful of other new politicians have conducted 40 public rallies, drawing hundreds of thousands of Albanians in every district of the country.

The rally at Peshkopi, a bedraggled chrome-mining town of 10,000 lying at the foot of majestic snow-capped mountains, was his party's latest and one of the last before what are described as the first free elections in Albanian history, to be held on Sunday.

To reach Peshkopi, Dr. Berisha and a party of three drove for four hours in a car provided by the Communist government on narrow roads that twist into the high country and then hair-pin up and down the sides of mountains past, and sometimes through, herds of sheep, goats and cows.

Jolted from side to side, Dr. Berisha, 46, made notes for his speech, occasionally consulting his party spokesman, Genc Pollo, 28.

The first stop was Maqellare, a village of 1,250. A crowd of several hundred young men, recognizing the candidate although the car had no party identification on it, blocked the road and urged him to address them.

They flashed the "V" sign that is the rallying gesture of Albania's anti-Communists and shouted "Democracy!" and "Freedom!"

By the time he began to speak, at least 400 villagers had assembled.

"We will win!" Dr. Berisha declared. He was greeted by cheers.

A half hour later, the Berisha party parked in Peshkopi's main street, which was devoid of other motor vehicles, and made its way to a large square in front of the district agricultural college.

About 7,000 people were assembled, listening to a declamation of verses by Gjergj Fishta, an Albanian poet who died in 1940.

When Dr. Berisha showed up, there was a thunderous roar. Boys threw their jackets aloft and made "V" signs with their fingers. But at least one-third of the crowd stood silent, hands folded.

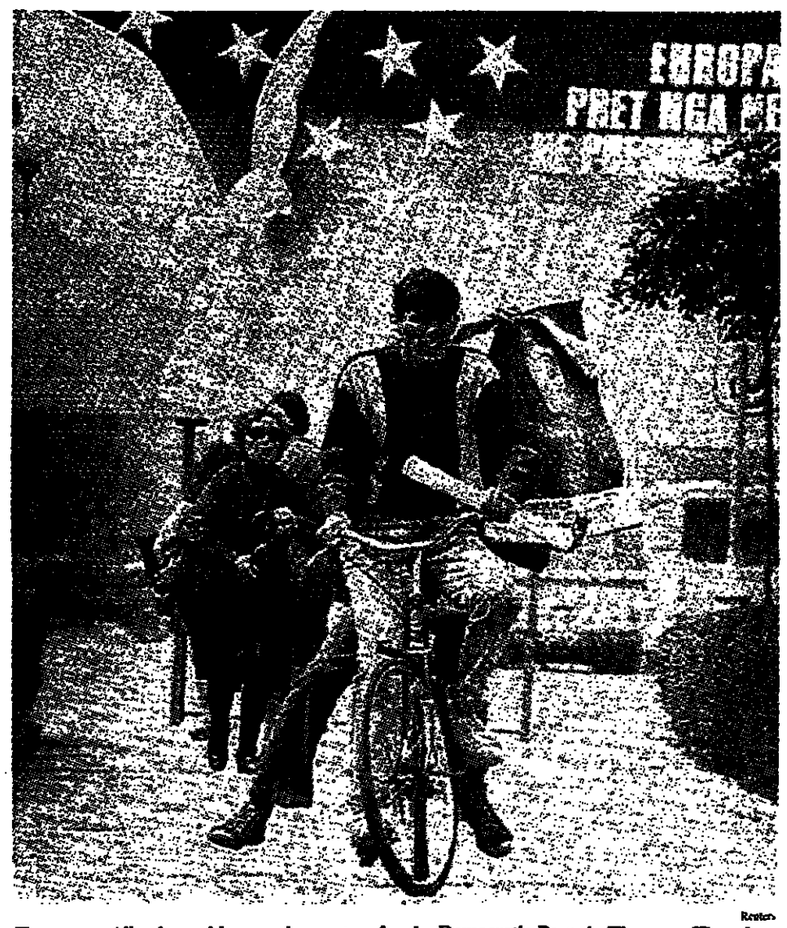
"They are afraid," said Astrit Shehu, a Peshkopi schoolteacher. "I think the Democratic Party will get about half the vote. The Communists here have threatened people that they are still in power, and anybody who votes against them puts their life at risk."

At a late lunch in Peshkopi's only hotel, a state television cameraman introduced himself as the city's Communist Party secretary.

"I am for the Democratic Party," he said.

A local judge joined the group. He said he was for the Democrats.

"Things are looking up," Dr. Berisha said.



Reuters

Two young Albanians with campaign posters for the Democratic Party in Tirana on Thursday.

6 Yugoslav Republic Chiefs Hold 'Concrete' Talks on Crisis

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SPLIT, Yugoslavia — The presidents of all six Yugoslav republics, under pressure from the West and at home, made a "very constructive" first step Thursday in talks on reshaping their federation, an official said.

The leaders gathered as fears of civil war or military intervention subsided, at least temporarily, after an agreement by Yugoslavia's two main political rivals to reject violence and the army's promise to stay out of politics.

Momentum for the summit meeting developed after a secret meeting on Monday between the leaders of the two largest republics, Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, and Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president.

"The talks are very concrete and very constructive," said a Tudjman aide, Mario Nobilo. He said leaders had not yet focused on a specific model for a new Yugoslavia but were concentrating on a solution to the crisis in general.

Yugoslavia has been rent by ethnic tensions and pushed to the brink of civil war in recent months by political brinkmanship among its regions' leaders.

Croatia and Slovenia, where center-right governments replaced Communist rulers in elections last spring, want to turn Yugoslavia into a loose confederation of states.

Serbia, where Mr. Milosevic's Socialist Party, formerly the Communist Party, was re-elected in December, has insisted on keeping a tight federation, ruled from Belgrade, the Serbian and Yugoslav capital.

Feuding has paralyzed the federal government of Prime Minister Ante Markovic and the economies of all the republics are close to collapse. The West has supported Mr. Markovic and warned against Yugoslavia's breaking up into individual republics.

President George Bush, in a letter to the prime minister published Thursday, expressed admiration for Mr. Markovic's policy changes and urged leaders to resolve their differences "within a single, democratic Yugoslavia."

Mr. Tudjman and Mr. Milosevic, whose authoritarian rule is threatened by Mr. Markovic's program, reportedly agreed Monday that he should be dismissed. Croatian officials confirmed that Mr. Markovic might be removed soon.

(AP, Reuters)

LIMITS: *Under New Leader, Singapore Is Loosening the Political Reins*

(Continued from page 1)

without trial those it considers to be a subversive threat.

The act was last invoked in 1989 to arrest a group of Singaporeans who claimed they had been mistreated during an earlier detention when they were accused of a plot to overthrow the government. All have since been released.

Analysts said that a move to abolish the act was unlikely. Although Communist insurgency is no longer a problem in either Singapore or neighboring Malaysia, officials in Singapore have said that the act — a legacy of British colonial rule — is needed to deter religious and racial extremism.

Nonetheless, many Singaporeans said that since Mr. Goh became prime minister they feel freer to engage in open political debate and voice criticism of the governing People's Action Party, which has won every general election since Singapore gained self-government from Britain in 1959 and full independence in 1965.

Hussin Mutalib, a lecturer in political science at the National University of Singapore, said that students and academics "see much more opportunity now to air their views and feel less hesitation in doing so."

Debate in Parliament is livelier than before, even though the governing party is in a dominant position.

Rank-and-file members are increasingly outspoken. Last month, for example, Davinder Singh, a governing party member of Parliament, said the government should rely more on persuasion than regulations and sanctions.

The government, he complained, "runs virtually every aspect of our lives, from the types of homes we live in, to the values we are to share, to the amount of petrol we must have to drive across the causeway" that links Singapore to Malaysia.

Abdullah Tarmugi, another member of Parliament, warned that if the government failed to reach out to more Singaporeans and win their support, the country risked ending up "like a well-appointed hotel but with little soul, with many travelers but no owners who are emotionally attached to this place and call it home."

In taking a less paternalistic approach to government than Mr. Lee, analysts said, Mr. Goh is responding to pressure for a more liberal regime from a growing number of well-educated, affluent and widely traveled young Singaporeans who make up a large percentage of the electorate.

Worried by a low national birthrate and the migration of thousands of young and talented Singaporeans each year, the government is also trying to create conditions that will attract replacement settlers and encourage citizens to stay.

Explaining government policy in a speech opening Parliament last month, President Wee Kim Wee said that when Singaporeans "take an active interest in public affairs, and see their own suggestions making a difference to the community, they will identify more closely with the success of Singapore."

He added that when policies incorporate ideas from citizens "the policies will not only be less imperfect, but will also command wider support and acceptance."

UTOPIA: *700-Year Angst*

(Continued from page 1)

1291 to thwart the feudal rule of the Hapsburgs and any other foreign ruler who tried to set foot on their territory. The confederation grew into a modern democratic state of 26 autonomous cantons embracing four different languages and cultures: German, French, Italian and Romansch.

Although proud of their heritage as a haven for beleaguered exiles from war and political persecution, the Swiss have grown uncomfortable with the perception that much of their prosperity is secured by the largesse accumulating in their banks from the hefty deposits of dictators and drug barons.

In Zurich, the spreading menace of drug addiction can be found within the shadow of some of the country's largest banks.

The drug problem has even reached the Swiss parliament in Bern, where heroin users and dealers often congregate on a terrace within view of the lawmakers. Bern's city council, after hearing complaints from a government delegation that the scene was unsafe and undignified, have agreed to move the capital's drug refuge to a more discreet location next month.

Various scandals, meanwhile, have undermined public trust in the political leadership and the police. Justice Minister Elisabeth Kopp was forced to resign in December 1988 amid charges that she illegally informed her husband about a pending police investigation of his business activities.

Another controversy prompted civil-rights advocates to challenge police authorities about the widespread practices of eavesdropping and other forms of surveillance. An investigation showed that Swiss authorities had accumulated 600,000 files on foreigners and Swiss citizens.

"There is real anger evident among some citizens over what they fear may be the inexorable rise of a quasi-police state," a Swiss government official said.

As the anniversary unfolds, the political debate about Switzerland's identity is bound to heat up. Some Swiss citizens want border controls to be tightened to curtail immigration and sustain the indigenous way of life. Others are demanding that the country confront the next century and abandon its belief in being "a special case" in the world, even if that means giving up its cherished neutrality and applying for membership in the European Community.

As part of the septicentennial effort to define a better society, the government has commissioned the country's leading artists to portray their visions of Switzerland. Their work is intended to celebrate the diversity of the country's four cultures, but the show's title testifies more to the relentless Swiss quest for perfection.

It is called "Utopia."

IRAQ: *Baghdad Says Its Army Retook Kurdish City*

(Continued from page 1)

supply their region with food and to allow them to use about a half a dozen Iraqi planes, including helicopters, taken during the fighting.

"The food situation is very serious," said Jalal Talabani, who heads the Popular Union of Kurdistan rebel group active in the north.

"We will face starvation if we don't receive food in one month," he said, adding that he has asked the allied coalition that defeated Iraq last month to allow food supplies to reach the northern Kurdish region from Turkey and Iran.

The United Nations Security Council decided last week to allow essential food supplies into Iraq, but the rebels said Iraqi troops were blocking the supplies from reaching areas where rebellion is under way both in the north and south, and, that neither Turkey nor Iran were helping to unblock these obstacles.

Lack of food indeed appears acute in the southern cities of Basra, Karbala and An Najaf as many Iraqi refugees fleeing from these towns have told allied troops occupying the Iraqi city of Safwan to give them food. The city has been the scene of food riots.

In Damascus, the National Kurdistan Union, which is based in Syria, said that Iraqi troops had been preparing to attack Kirkuk by shelling it with long-range artillery and from helicopters as well as fixed-wing planes.

The use of fixed-wing planes by Iraq is not permitted according to the terms of the temporary ceasefire worked out between Iraq and the U.S.-led forces.

If confirmed, these developments will, in the opinion of diplomats here, increase pressure on Washington to act to support the rebels.

Kurdish and southern Iraqi rebels have both appealed to Washington to aid them by restricting the freedom of the Iraqi Army.

President George Bush said Wednesday that Mr. Hussein's efforts to stay in power would fail but gave no indication that he was planning to order any renewed military action to support Mr. Hussein's opponents.

KUWAIT: *Officers Say Order Was Not to Fight Iraq*

(Continued from page 1)

dreds of relatives and friends gathered. Women ululated and men fired guns into the air in celebration. One officer sobbed as he hugged his wife and three small children.

Officials said 679 army and air force officers freed by Iraq were to return home Thursday on flights from Saudi Arabia, their first stop after having been released.

Iraq held the officers separately from ordinary soldiers. Most of them said that they had been moved several times in Iraq and that they had not been ill-treated but had not been given much food.

■ Opposition Won't Disarm

A Kuwaiti opposition group said Thursday that it would not surrender its weapons unless the ruling Sabah family carried out promised democratic measures, news agencies reported.

The group, the August 2 Movement, which is dominated by Shiite Muslims, also called for civil disobedience and demonstrations to press for change, as have other opposition groups.

"We refuse to hand our weapons until the regime implements its pledge to abide by all clauses of the constitution, restore freedom and democratic rule," the group said.

Officials have voiced concern about the number of guns still in civilian hands a month after U.S.-led forces recaptured Kuwait.

Activists said two recent meetings between the crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad al Abdullah as Salim as Sabah, and opposition leaders had ended in acrimonious deadlock. The talks were over long-standing demands by the opposition for restoring the National Assembly, Kuwait's parliament, which was dissolved in 1986.

Sheikh Saad was expected to form a new government this week.

(Reuters, AP)

The alternative.

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RALLY: *No More Fear*

(Continued from page 1)

plan a few days ago, the group at Arbat Square marched along the city's Garden Ring Road and joined forces at Mayakovsky Square near the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall.

There were some incidents earlier in the day with protesters trying to reach Manezh Square, but there were no serious clashes with the police. Even the official press agency Tass, a conservative mouthpiece for the government was forced to admit, "Both sides demonstrated common sense and composure."

As darkness fell, the crowds headed for home and truckloads of troops headed out of the city.

It ended a day that began with an intense fear of violence, a sense that both sides of the confrontation were heading inexorably into a calamity. The main headline of the liberal daily Nezavisamaya Gazeta said, "Who Will Be to Blame If the Worst Happens?"

"Stop the Madness!" the government newspaper Izvestia pleaded.

Izvestia said the barricades and troop deployments around Manezh and Red squares showed that the Gorbachev government "fears its own people, it shows its unwillingness to talk to them."

The show of strength, the paper said, "casts shame on the authorities, who show not real strength but their own weakness."

The sense of terrible danger and threat that has long haunted the Baltic states, Central Asia and the Caucasus, had come for the first time to Moscow.

Although that danger was avoided, the crowd's passionate support for Mr. Yeltsin and their seemingly limitless anger at Mr. Gorbachev made it clear that the political battle was stepping up.

One sign carried by a marcher said, "Mikhail the Bloody: We Despise You!"

Fire Hits American Embassy In Moscow

By Eleanor Randolph
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — A midmorning fire swept through the main building of the U.S. Embassy here Thursday, causing no major injuries but apparently destroying the "core area" of the U.S. compound where diplomats conduct secret embassy business.

The fire, which witnesses said appeared to be caused by American workmen, again raised the issue of where U.S. diplomats will work after a new embassy constructed by the Soviets was deemed unusable by intelligence experts.

The old embassy office, which has caught fire three times previously, broke into flames at about 10 A.M. A huge cloud of black smoke spewed from the top of the 10-story structure as hundreds of U.S. workers streamed into the streets.

More than 40 Soviet fire trucks arrived at the scene, but Soviet fire fighters did not start using their full array of hoses and ladders until more than 30 minutes after they arrived.

The Soviet radio quoted one fire official as saying that Americans refused to allow them access to the compound for 42 minutes, and some American witnesses said Soviet fire fighters appeared to be waiting until U.S. Marines could secure the building.

"It's not true," said James Bullock, first secretary for information at the embassy. Mr. Bullock said that the Soviet fire fighters were called "immediately" and that U.S. Marines escorted them through the building to guide them through dark corridors and to unlock doors to provide access.

Mr. Bullock said that because about 200 people work in the building, it would have been "unconscionable to fail to ask for assistance immediately."

He said investigators from Washington would soon begin an assessment to determine whether the building could still be used by U.S. personnel. He said the fire had destroyed the roof and stairwells and caused severe smoke and water damage throughout the rest of the building.

After a fire in the same embassy building in 1988, there were reports that Soviets were rifling through American papers in the "secure," or restricted, areas of the embassy building in the top floors.

Mr. Bullock said Thursday, however, that "there are no indications of any significant activities that would have compromised security" because of Soviets in the building during this fire.

Within hours after the fire started, Ambassador Jack F. Matlock and his staff had set up a makeshift office in an embassy building down the street.

Many of the other employees were scattered in offices throughout the compounds, sharing desks and working in the basement of the townhouses where diplomats live.

An auditorium sometimes used for State Department visitors was quickly converted into office space to keep the embassy working.

The new embassy building, about 500 yards (450 meters) behind the old one, is empty except for U.S. workers.

Construction was stopped some years ago after U.S. intelligence experts found the building to be hopelessly bugged with hidden listening and transmission devices, apparently secreted there by the KGB.

Congress has not determined yet whether the new building should be torn down and replaced or renovated. The Bush administration recently proposed a restructuring of the building.

The Bush proposal, called the "Top Hat Plan," would allow U.S. workmen to remove several top floors and rebuild three "secure" floors in their place. Lower floors would be used for less sensitive operations, one official said.

For a group of U.S. senators who were in Moscow as part of a tour of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, the fire brought the problems of the U.S. Embassy into focus.

"Apparently this old building is a very bad fire trap," Senator Orrin G. Hatch, Republican of Utah, said of the structure that embassy officials have been trying to move out of for years.

The building, built in the early 1950s, has caught fire in 1977, 1988 and last year. U.S. officials began working in the building in 1952.

Mr. Hatch added, "At first we thought this was set by somebody else as an effort to push us into that other monstrosity," referring to the new building. But he said that he and other senators were told that there were no Soviets near the elevator shaft when the fire started.

Polish Council Seeks Better Jewish Relations

United Press International

WARSAW — A Council for Polish-Jewish Relations began operations Thursday at the request of President Lech Walesa, with its main object to forward and support closer relations between Poles and Jews.

Arkadiusz Rybicki, Mr. Walesa's political secretary, said a preliminary program of operation was worked out at the first meeting of the six-member council. "With no other nation were Poles so closely linked as with Jews," said a statement issued after the meeting. "No other nation co-created our economic and cultural life to such a degree."

WORLD BRIEFS

Li Rebuffs U.S. Lawmakers on Rights

BEIJING (UPI) — Prime Minister Li Peng rejected a call on Thursday two U.S. members of Congress for the release of political prisoners, and he criticized the United States for a "carrot and stick" approach to human rights, the visiting representatives said.

Representatives Frank R. Wolf of Virginia and Christopher H. Smith of New Jersey, both Republicans, presented Mr. Li with a letter signed by more than 100 members of Congress that demands the release of political prisoners and 77 imprisoned Chinese Roman Catholics and Protestants. Mr. Li accepted the letter but told the Americans that China's leaders were "not in a position to make decisions regarding the judiciary," Mr. Wolf said. Mr. Li also derided attempts to link human-rights issues with trade policy.

Depardieu Wants Press Retraction

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Lawyers for Gérard Depardieu demanded on Thursday that Time magazine, USA Today and The Washington Post retract articles quoting him as saying he committed a rape at age 9.

But Time said it had sent a letter to Mr. Depardieu saying that the magazine was satisfied that his quotes were "neither mistranslated nor misunderstood" in its story on Feb. 4. A film in which Mr. Depardieu acted, "Cyrano de Bergerac," was nominated for Academy Awards for best foreign film and best actor but failed to win in those categories.

The Washington Post said its lawyers were studying the letter from Mr. Depardieu's lawyers and a spokesman for USA Today had no immediate comment. Both newspapers had followed up on the Time story.

Mandela Co-Defendant Is Acquitted

JOHANNESBURG (Combined Dispatches) — The judge in Winnie Mandela's kidnapping and assault trial dropped all charges against one of her co-defendants Thursday, ruling that there was insufficient evidence. A member of the prosecution team said the acquittal of Nompumelelo Falati, 18, would not affect the state's case against Mrs. Mandela, wife of the African National Congress deputy leader, Nelson Mandela.

Mrs. Mandela and two other defendants, Miss Falati's mother, Xoliswa, and John Morgan, face charges related to the alleged abduction and beating of four young men in December 1988. One of the four, Stompie Moekhetsi Seipei, 14, was later killed, and Mrs. Mandela's chief bodyguard, Jerry Richardson, was convicted of murdering him.

Meanwhile, after the deaths of 27 people since Sunday, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, head of the Zulu Inkatha movement, said Thursday that unchecked violence threatened to tear the country apart and confessed that he was failing in his efforts to stop it. Chief Buthelezi said all South Africans were to blame for the carnage. *(AP, UPI, Reuters)*

Reagan Backing a Gun Control Bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Ronald Reagan, whose administration opposed gun control legislation, said Thursday that he supported the so-called Brady Bill, requiring a seven-day waiting period for firearms purchases.

"It's just plain common sense that there be a waiting period to allow local law enforcement officials to conduct background checks on those who wish to buy a handgun," Mr. Reagan said in a speech at George Washington University. Mr. Reagan and his wife, Nancy, were invited to the university to receive an honorary degree of doctor of public service and to have a reunion with doctors and nurses who treated him at the university hospital after an attempt on his life 10 years ago Saturday. James Brady, his press secretary at the time, was permanently disabled in the shooting.

The White House said Thursday that President George Bush was willing to discuss with Congress a proposal to require a seven-day waiting period for handgun purchases, a measure he so far has steadfastly opposed. A White House spokesman, Roman Popadiuk, hinted that a possible shift in Mr. Bush's position might be linked to how Congress dealt with the president's own anti-crime package.

Details Given on Singapore Hijackers

SINGAPORE (AP) — Four men killed in a hijack attempt on a Singapore Airlines passenger jet wanted to fly to Australia and then to Iraq or Libya, government officials said Thursday.

Commandoes rescued 123 hostages — 114 passengers from 18 countries and nine crew — in an eight-minute dawn assault at Changi International Airport on Wednesday. Officials earlier said there were 126 passengers and crew on the shuttle from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which was seized as it neared Singapore.

The statement from the Home Affairs Ministry clarified several details but did not substantially change earlier reports. Officials earlier said the hijackers were armed with knives, hand grenades and explosives. Three knives and seven cylinders containing explosive materials were displayed as evidence Thursday.

L.A. Motorist Is a Holdup Suspect

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The police said Thursday that the motorist whose beating by police officers was recorded on videotape was a suspect in a holdup and that the investigation had been turned over to the state attorney general "to avoid any conflict of interest."

Rodney King, who was severely injured by policemen March 3, is suspected in the Feb. 21 robbery of a San Fernando Valley electronics store in which an employee was shot and wounded.

Corrections

A Washington Post article in some Wednesday editions on the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in a coerced confession case incorrectly listed Justice David H. Souter's position. He did not vote on whether use of the confession at issue constituted "harmless error."

An article in Thursday's editions about a Supreme Court ruling on the overseas application of the 1964 Civil Rights Act incorrectly identified the organization on whose behalf Joseph J. Smallhoover was speaking. It is the Democratic Party Committee Abroad.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Air fares are set to fall this weekend as airlines remove some of the Gulf crisis fuel surcharges imposed late last year, a spokesman for the International Air Transport Association said Thursday. The surcharges, which varied according to region, were imposed in two rounds in October and November as fuel prices rose in response to the crisis. *(IHT)*

Most Lisbon museums will be closed over the weekend by a strike, and many hotels have also been hit by strikes as the Portuguese capital is flooded with tourists for the Easter holiday. *(AFP)*

Finnish hotel and restaurant workers began an open-ended strike over pay and conditions Thursday that they said would close most establishments over the Easter holidays. *(Reuters)*

WEATHER

EUROPE	HIGH C	HIGH F	LOW C	LOW F	
Amsterdam	11	52	3	37	sh
Athens	20	68	10	50	pc
Barcelona	17	63	8	46	pc
Belgrade	13	55	1	34	r
Berlin	9	48	-1	30	sw
Brussels	12	54	3	37	c
Budapest	11	52	0	32	c
Copenhagen	6	43	-1	30	sn
Costa Del Sol	19	66	11	52	pc
Dublin	10	50	5	41	sh
Edinburgh	9	48	3	37	sh
Faro	19	66	10	50	pc
Florence	16	61	10	50	pc
Frankfurt	11	52	0	32	sn
Geneva	9	48	4	39	sh
Helsinki	2	36	-7	19	sf
Las Palmas	20	68	13	55	pc
Lisbon	17	63	10	50	pc
London	13	55	3	37	sh
Luxembourg	11	52	3	37	sh
Madrid	15	59	4	39	pc
Milan	12	54	5	41	pc
Moscow	1	34	-1	30	sw
Munich	4	39	-2	28	sw
Nice	16	61	8	46	pc
Oslo	5	41	-1	30	sn
Paris	13	55	1	34	sh
Prague	7	45	0	32	sw
Reykjavik	5	41	3	37	sw
Rome	17	63	11	52	pc
Stockholm	7	45	-4	25	sn
Strasbourg	11	52	0	32	c
Venice	14	57	6	43	pc
Vienna	6	43	3	37	sh
Warsaw	4	39	-1	30	c
Zurich	6	43	-1	30	c

MIDDLE EAST					
Cairo	32	90	18	64	fr
Istanbul	11	52	5	41	c
Manama	—	—	—	—	—
Riyadh	32	84	18	64	fr
Tel Aviv	28	82	10	50	fr

OCEANIA					
Auckland	—	—	—	—	—
Sydney	26	79	18	64	fr

ASIA	HIGH C	HIGH F	LOW C	LOW F	
Bangkok	34	93	25	77	sh
Beijing	14	57	1	34	sn
Hong Kong	23	73	21	70	sh
Manila	33	91	23	73	sh
New Delhi	33	91	18	64	fr
Seoul	12	54	3	37	sn
Shanghai	13	55	3	37	sn
Singapore	31	88	23	73	sh
Taipei	23	73	17	63	r
Tokyo	19	66	6	43	r

AFRICA					
Algiers	19	66	8	46	fr
Cape Town	28	82	13	55	fr
Casablanca	18	64	10	50	fr
Harare	32	90	18	64	fr
Lagos	33	91	25	77	sh
Nairobi	24	75	15	59	fr
Tunis	19	66	11	52	c

LATIN AMERICA					
Buenos Aires	22	72	12	54	c
Lima	24	75	19	66	fr
Mexico City	22	81	9	48	pc
Rio de Janeiro	—	—	—	—	—

NORTH AMERICA					
Anchorage	3	38	-3	26	sn
Atlanta	22	81	17	63	sh
Boston	21	70	6	43	pc
Chicago	16	59	-1	30	pc
Denver	18	59	-1	30	pc
Detroit	17	63	0	32	pc
Honolulu	28	82	20	68	pc
Houston	27	81	14	61	pc
Los Angeles	25	64	11	52	pc
Miami	29	84	22	72	pc
Minneapolis	2	36	-6	21	pc
Montreal	17	63	-3	26	pc
Nassau	—	—	—	—	—
New York	21	70	9	48	pc
Phoenix	28	82	9	48	pc
San Francisco	17	63	8	46	pc
Seattle	13	55	5	41	pc
Toronto	9	48	-2	28	pc
Washington	26	79	10	50	fr

c-cloudy; fa-foggy; fr-fair; h-hail; o-overcast; pc-partly cloudy; r-rain; sh-showers; sn-snow; st-stormy.

FRIDAY'S FORECAST — CHANNEL: Rough. FRANKFURT: Fair. Temps. 10 — 3 (50 — 26). YORK: Cloudy. Temps. 14 — 8 (57 — 46). MADRID: Overcast. Temps. 13 — 5 (55 — 41). NEW ROME: Showers. Temps. 19 — 11 (66 — 52). PARIS: Partly cloudy. Temps. 11 — 2 (52 — 36). Temps. 9 — 4 (48 — 25). BANGKOK: Cloudy. Temps. 34 — 27 (93 — 81). HONG KONG: Cloudy with a few light rain patches. Temps. 21 — 18 (70 — 64). MANILA: Fair. Temps. 34 — 22 (93 — 72). SEOUL: Cloudy. Temps. 13 — 2 (55 — 36). SINGAPORE: Showers. Temps. 33 — 27 (91 — 81). TOKYO: Fair; turning cloudy. Temps. 16 — 9 (61 — 48).

صكنا من الاصل

THE GULF: If a Third World country wants to slow up a world power, says an expert, 'mines are the way to go.'

For Army, a Lesson in Basics

Radios and Mine-Clearing Gear Had Serious Flaws

By Michael R. Gordon and Eric Schmitt
New York Times Service

RIYADH — Unproven high-technology U.S. weaponry performed well in the Gulf war, but such mundane, essential equipment as mine-clearing gear and radios had serious limitations and were sometimes in short supply, U.S. military commanders say.

Many experts, including those in the military, expressed fears before the war that expensive weapons like the M1-A1 tank, Apache helicopter and Tomahawk cruise missile would break down or perform marginally in the hot, dusty desert region.

In the six months before the war began, the military worked out the bugs in its most advanced weapons, increased maintenance checks to counter the desert's effects and amassed vast stockpiles of spare parts. The advanced weapons worked wonders.

But when the fighting broke out, and in some cases even beforehand, field commanders faced problems with basic equipment that they had taken for granted.

Marine units improvised radio hookups when communications in their C-7 command vehicles faltered. Army tow trucks used to haul damaged tanks were old and slow. A shortage of fast transport ships delayed the deployment of heavy armored equipment. Allied and Marine ground forces did not have enough of the latest equipment for breaching Iraqi minefields.

"We have all kinds of smart guys developing all kinds of smart weapons, but nobody really developed good mine-clearing techniques," said Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Gombar, who commanded a battalion in the 2d Marine Division that lost four M-60 mine-clearing tanks while advancing through one of the thickest minefields in Kuwait.

For the last four decades, U.S. weaponry has been designed to stop a huge Soviet invasion of Western Europe and the Gulf. Iraq, however, used a combination of modern Soviet and Western-made weapons, and some crude tactics that date to the Romans, like flaming oil-filled trenches and belts of mines.

Allied firepower so overwhelmed Iraqi forces that glitches in the coalition's campaign had little, if any, effect on the war's outcome. If allied air strikes had not blasted most of Iraq's artillery, however, U.S. forces could have suffered higher casualties from troops that were slowed down by minefields, U.S. generals said.

> **'Nobody really developed good mine-clearing techniques.'**
> **Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Gombar**

Military commanders are poring over videotaped aircraft attacks on Iraqi targets as well as the battlefield to glean lessons on how different types of equipment performed.

Preliminary results show the wide technological advantage that the allies enjoyed fighting Iraqi forces at night and in fast, flanking attacks. A few weapons, like the Patriot missiles that intercepted Iraqi Scud missiles, worked much better than most observers expected. But interviews with a wide range of military officers also turned up some deficiencies.

"If you're a Third World country that wants to screw around with a world power, seriously slow them up and do it cheaply, mines are the way to go," said Colonel Gombar.

Iraq scattered more than 500,000 land mines throughout Kuwait, posing one of the largest challenges to the allied armies.

Mine-clearing charges — a long rope knotted with explosives — were lobbed into a minefield, where they were detonated to clear a safe path. Army and Marines units would follow the line-charges with a variety of mine-clearing devices, including plows fitted to the front of tanks.

"Mine technology is way ahead of countermine technology," Colonel Gombar said. "There's no fool-proof mine plow" and the military does not have an effective means of detecting mines made of plastic.

Additionally, there were often inadequate supplies of mine-clearing equipment for all the allied ground forces rolling into Kuwait.

The army developed new mine "rakes," which covered the full width of a tank and rushed them to Saudi Arabia. The army gave some to the Marines, but there were not always enough to go around. The 2d Marine Division, for example, only had four of these devices and some battalions had to do without.

"Some equipment we had to beg, borrow and steal to get," said Brigadier General Richard I. Neal, deputy director of U.S. military operations, noting that some allies had to rely on the United States for mine-clearing equipment.

When the equipment was provided for the allied forces, it often did so in the nick of time. Marines fitted mine-clearing plows on Saudi tanks only hours before ground forces were scheduled to attack, noted Lieutenant Colonel Jim Cobb, a Marine liaison to the Arab forces.

Commanders said they worked around other problems, but emphasized that the Marines need better radios to carry out the fast-paced maneuvers that are called for by their new fighting doctrine and which characterized the Gulf war.

"We need to make lethal split-second decisions, and you can't do that with communications created in the Vietnam era," said Brigadier General Charles C. Krulak, who oversaw Marine logistics.

Mikhel Gangne/Agence France-Presse

Iraqi women washing clothes in a pond in southern Iraq. The women were on their way to Kuwait to escape civil war in Iraq.

Troops Kill 2 in Gaza, Jew Stabbed In Jerusalem

By Joel Brinkley
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — Two Palestinians were killed by Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip on Thursday, and an elderly Jew was wounded by a Palestinian in Jerusalem, while the government heard from Israel's ambassador to the United States about Washington's suggestions for regional peace.

The ambassador, Zalmon Shoval, back from Washington, was among several Middle Eastern diplomats who met with Secretary of State James A. Baker 3d in recent days to discuss the Bush administration's Middle East peace initiative.

Israeli officials are saying little about what, if anything, Mr. Shoval brought back with him. The ambassador insisted that he came back with no specific questions or proposals. He also said Israeli was waiting for Arab nations to make concessions or offers to Israel.

Israeli officials said Mr. Baker told Mr. Shoval how strongly Washington disapproved of several recent Israeli actions.

Among them are the expulsion order issued Sunday against four Palestinians from Gaza, the announcement by the housing minister, Ariel Sharon, that West Bank settlements would be greatly expanded over the next two years, and the declaration by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that Israel has no intention of negotiating with Syria over the future of the Golan Heights.

Israeli officials also said the United States had expressed interest in seeing whether a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation might be formed to discuss the future of the West Bank. Aides to Mr. Shamir said Israel would agree to talk with a such a delegation under certain conditions.

King Hussein of Jordan has made it clear that he wants to be involved in the peace process.

But while Israelis were anxious to know what move Washington might make next, the continuing violence in Israel and the occupied territories was probably having a more dramatic and detrimental effect on the chances for peace than any plans that might come from the State Department. Seven Jews have been killed and 11 wounded in attacks by Palestinians since early March.

In the southern town of Rafah in the Gaza Strip on Thursday, Israeli troops opened fire on youths who were throwing stones. Palestinians reported that a 12-year-old boy and a 22-year-old man were killed. At least 47 other people were wounded as well, relief workers said.

Later, in Jerusalem's Old City, an assailant stabbed a 76-year-old Israeli man in the back. His injuries were reported to be moderate.

■ UN Reacts to Deportation

John M. Goshko of The Washington Post reported earlier from the United Nations in New York:

The UN Security Council issued a statement deploring Israel's deportation order against the four Palestinians, and said it was "gravely concerned" about Israeli handling of continuing Arab unrest in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

The statement was read at a council meeting Wednesday night by the Austrian representative, Peter Hohenfellner, the council president for March, and called on Israel "to desist from deporting Palestinians and to ensure the safe return of those deported."

But the council action fell short of the strong condemnation that had been sought by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

A presidential statement, while requiring consent of all 15 council members, does not have the legal standing of a formal resolution and is regarded primarily as a form of moral suasion.

Iraqis 'Can Do Own Work,' Iran Says

By Judith Miller
New York Times Service

TEHRAN — President Hashemi Rafsanjani has categorically denied that Iran provided troops, arms or other kinds of military assistance to Iraqi opposition groups, saying the rebels neither needed nor wanted Iranian intervention.

"The Iraqi people can do their own work," the Iranian leader was quoted as saying in Der Spiegel, the German weekly.

"They do not wish for us to interfere because they would be accused of collaborating with a foreign nation."

Extensive transcripts of the interview, conducted at the end of last week, appeared in all of the Iranian state-controlled Persian- and English-language papers.

Mr. Rafsanjani asserted that, many reports in the Western press notwithstanding, Iran was providing just humanitarian aid to more than 17,000 Iraqi refugees who have fled the fighting into his country.

"Our support has been restricted to giving shelter to those taking refuge in Iran or to helpless people," he said.

Asked whether Iran was providing weapons to Iraqi Shiite Muslim rebels fighting in the south, or to Kurdish guerrillas said to control large sections of Iraq's north, the Iranian president insisted, "We are not sending any weapons."

He also denied that Iranians were fighting alongside rebels or troops opposed to President Saddam Hussein.

The Iranian president made these assertions before reports were published in the United States indicating that President George Bush had decided not to intervene, but to permit Mr. Hussein to put down the rebellion in his country, rather than risk the disintegration of Iraq.

An Iranian government official, asked whether the U.S. position would affect his own country's stated determination not to intervene, said that whether or not Iran helped the rebels, the Iraqi opposition would prevail.

And Mr. Rafsanjani suggested as much when asked by Der Spiegel whether the Iraqi people would oust Mr. Hussein.

"In my opinion," he replied, "the people are serious, and their movement against Saddam is vigorous."

Moreover, he added, the rebels did not need weapons from the outside, because "under present conditions, it is not very difficult for the Iraqi people to get arms."

Many parts of Iraq, he said, were now controlled "by the people."

Diplomats in the Gulf have said that although Iranians have not been fighting in Iraq, Tehran has trained and armed about 30,000 Iraqi dissidents.

[Iran has accused Iraq of violating the cease-fire between the two countries, Agence France-Presse reported from Tehran Thursday, quoting the Iranian press agency IRNA.

[Iran's chief delegate to the United Nations, in a letter to Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, asserted that Iraqi forces had "opened fire in border regions" and carried out infiltrations beyond the cease-fire line.

["The Iranian government will therefore inform the international community of the details," IRNA quoted the letter from Kamal Kharrazi as saying.

[Mr. Kharrazi also repeated Iran's denial of Iraqi accusations that Iranian forces had earlier this month violated the cease-fire, in force since the end of the Iran-Iraq war in August 1988, with several incursions.]

In another matter, Mr. Rafsanjani was highly critical of the United States, saying it was "still an enemy of the Islamic Revolution."

He repeated Iran's insistence that U.S. forces would eventually have to leave the Gulf.

The interview made no mention of the fate of the Western hostages.

U.S. Seeking Role for Jordan

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State James A. Baker 3d, in another round of talks aimed at restarting the Middle East peace process, has begun examining how to involve Jordan and reconcile it with the United States and Arab members of the allied coalition, according to administration officials and diplomats.

Although King Hussein angered President George Bush and many other alliance leaders when he expressed sympathy with Iraq during the Gulf war, the officials said there was a realization in the administration that Jordan could play a critical role in a future dialogue between Israel and Palestinians.

[King Hussein began a trip to Paris on Thursday in a bid to reestablish Jordan's key role in the peace process and to repair the damage caused by his sympathy for Iraq in the war, Reuters reported.

[The king's trip was his first out of the region since the war. He is to meet President François Mitterrand, who is considered one of the Western leaders most sympathetic to Jordan's situation and to the Palestinians.

[Diplomats and government sources said the king was counting on geography and historic links with the Palestinians to make him an indispensable figure in the region. "He's going to play the peace card," a diplomat said.]

Mr. Baker and Mr. Bush's national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft, met this week with Adnan Abu Odeh, an adviser to the Jordanian king.

Mr. Odeh told Mr. Baker that Jordan was anxious to be a participant in the nascent peace process.

"They want to get back in our good graces," a U.S. official said.

Mr. Bush was sharply critical of Jordan before and during the war, and aid to Jordan has been "under review" by the administration. But in recent days, Mr. Bush and Mr. Baker have started an effort to improve relations.

Administration officials cautioned that any rapprochement would be gradual.

The president wrote a letter to the Senate objecting to a measure passed last week that would have eliminated U.S. aid to Jordan.

The legislation was later softened to allow Mr. Bush to resume the assistance if he determines that Jordan is cooperating in the peace process.

King Hussein raised the possibility last week of reviving a U.S.-backed proposal, made several years ago, to form a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for peace talks with Israel.

The idea had foundered on the issue of Palestinian representation at the talks, which has continued to be a key sticking point in beginning any such dialogue.

A senior State Department official said the United States did not think it would be "helpful" to revive the earlier formula. But the official said it was clear that Jordan could play a role in possible new formulas for bringing Israeli officials and Palestinians to the table.

Mr. Baker has said his strategy to restart the Middle East peace process is based on a two-track approach: persuading Arab states to end their beligerency against Israel, and persuading Israel to move toward a dialogue with the Palestinians over the Israeli-occupied territories.

Mr. Baker has said that both tracks must move ahead simultaneously and that he is sounding out all parties about incremental steps they could take.

Mr. Baker has declined to discuss publicly the specifics of the steps he has suggested, but some of them have become known, including the idea of adopting "confidence-building" measures as a prelude to making larger concessions.

Bush Phones Schwarzkopf To Talk It Out

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — President George Bush telephoned General H. Norman Schwarzkopf on Thursday to assure him there were no hard feelings over the general's remarks that he had wanted to continue the attack against the Iraqi Army but had been overruled by the White House.

"The president told General Schwarzkopf not to worry about this incident," said a White House spokesman, Roman Popadiuk.

Mr. Popadiuk said of the president's phone call, "He just wanted to assure him that the incident was much ado about nothing."

(Reuters, AP)

A U.S. Nuclear Waste Dump Looks Like a Permanent Risk

By Matthew L. Wald
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Engineers rushing to build nuclear bombs in the 1950s dumped millions of gallons of radioactive waste into the ground at Hanford nuclear reservation near Richland, Washington, a new analysis by the Environmental Protection Agency shows.

Dirt from the reservation may be as dangerous as highly radioactive wastes stored in special tanks, the agency said.

But the federal government is still struggling to measure the level of contamination and has little idea of how to contain the danger. Wind, rain, birds, animals and underground water flow can all spread the radioactivity to the Columbia River, which forms one border of the reservation, and even farther afield.

Some of the wastes were injected deep into the earth. Some were dumped in open trenches or ponds, which were later filled in with bulldozers. The dumping sites are scattered in areas where reactors were operated or where used reactor fuel was chemically broken up to recover plutonium for use in bombs.

Hanford was already known to be one of the most polluted radioactive dumping grounds in the world, but the emerging understanding of the hazards there again shows the dangers created by a helter-skelter rush to production. More than five years after the complex first began to open itself to outside scrutiny, the revelations continue.

Forty years ago, engineers for the Atomic Energy Commission, a predecessor of the Energy Department, were making bomb fuel at Hanford and were running out of room to store dangerous radioactive wastes.

They divided the wastes into two types: one, rated highly radioactive, was stored in tanks, with the thought that someday a solution for permanent storage would be found, and the second, believed to contain relatively little dangerous material, was dumped into underground drainage systems.

The drains were built to allow the water-laden wastes to flow slowly down through the soil, with the soil functioning as a filter. Although the engineers did not realize it at the time, it turns out that the wastes they were dumping in the ground actually contained two very long-lived radioactive materials, technetium 99 and iodine 129.

While much of the radioactive materials in the special storage tanks naturally degrade into harmless minerals over about 300 years, technetium 99 retains half its radioactivity for 212,000 years, and iodine 129 retains half its radioactivity for 16 million years. Both are readily absorbed into the human body and can cause cancer.

The Environmental Protection Agency has begun uncovering the extent of the unsafe dumping in an ongoing review of Hanford documents, part of the effort to decide what to clean up first at the reservation.

The most radioactive material, including the technetium and iodine, was dumped many miles from the river. Timothy L. Nord, section head for Hanford at the Washington Department of Ecology, said it would take many years for that material to be exposed through wind erosion.

But groundwater can also spread the wastes, he said, adding, "We don't understand the ground water flow and the geology that well."

Meanwhile, he said, because of dumping closer to the Columbia, strontium 90 and other radioactive isotopes are continuing to flow into the river.

"From a health standpoint, it's not an imminent threat or anything like that," Mr. Nord said. But he added that the Department of Energy was still discharging chemical and radioactive wastes to the soil in 27 different streams, even as engineers try to find ways to clean up past releases.

Germany Makes Its Final Gulf Payment

The Associated Press

BONN — The government on Thursday transferred $1.68 billion to Washington, Germany's final payment for its contribution to the Gulf war, the Finance Ministry said.

The cabinet had approved a total contribution of $5.5 billion in January, but the government then came under pressure from the opposition to reduce the amount.

The Finance Ministry announced earlier this month that it would reconsider the sum that Bonn should pay in light of the actual costs of the war. The issue was resolved last week during a visit by Finance Minister Theo Waigel to Washington.

Germany's contribution to the Gulf war was primarily financial. The country's constitution bars it from military action outside the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

CIA's Art: It's Truly Unfathomable

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The new $250,000 sculpture decorating the inner courtyard at CIA headquarters contains a secret, coded message so difficult to unscramble that it is spooking the spy agency's smartest code busters.

The sculptor, Jim Sanborn, wrote the message but has refused to divulge its contents. He said the text was known only to himself and William H. Webster, the director of Central Intelligence.

Mr. Sanborn's encrypted brain-teaser is contained in 2,000 letters etched on the curving copper plates of his outdoor sculpture, "Kryptos." The work was erected outside the mirrored windows of the CIA employee cafeteria, offering a tantalizing challenge to the lunchtime crowd inside.

"Everyone wants to know what it says," Mr. Sanborn said. "They're out there all the time. There are groups of dark-suited people pointing at it and getting down on their knees trying to figure out what it says. Some take photographs. One guy copied the whole thing down with pencil and paper."

Months ago, as rumors of the mystery sculpture swept through the corridors of the CIA's wooded enclave in suburban Langley, Virginia, the police caught two men climbing ladders outside Mr. Sanborn's studio in Washington trying to photograph the inscription through his windows.

Mr. Sanborn said that "a friend of a friend" told him recently that frustrated CIA operatives had sent a copy of the coded message to their arch-rivals at the National Security Agency to run through their Cray supercomputer.

"The last I heard, they hadn't gotten very far," he said.

He said the sculpture's message deals on several levels with the CIA's tradition of secrecy. He hinted that it was a collaborative project, possibly written with the help of a prominent spy novelist.

The inscription includes a Vigenère table, a system of ciphers devised by the 16th-century French cryptographer Blaise de Vigenère, and a Vigenère-coded message that Mr. Sanborn said an expert could decipher in a few hours.

But the rest of the message is "a whole different ball game" of multiple codes, he said. It was written by a retired CIA cryptographer.

They conducted business only at secret locations, never by telephone or in writing.

U.S. Poll Backs Mideast Force

Reuters

WASHINGTON — More than two-thirds of Americans believe the United States should retain a military presence in the Middle East to safeguard peace, according to a new poll released on Thursday.

The poll, sponsored by a bipartisan research project, Americans Talk Issues, said 69 percent of those questioned agreed that the United States "should keep a military presence in the Middle East, like we did in Germany and Korea, until we are sure of peace in the region".

Only 28 percent agreed with the alternative statement that the United States should bring all the troops home from the Middle East as soon as possible. The poll, conducted March 19 to 24 by telephone among 1,000 adults, showed that a 89 percent expected U.S. world influence would increase following the war but 85 percent said they would prefer the United Nations take the lead in future conflicts rather than the United States.

Abandoned Baby Is Found in N.Y. Trash Compactor

New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A newborn baby was rescued from a trash compactor in Brooklyn when two maintenance men heard the baby's cries just as they were about to start the crushing machine's motors, the police said.

Detectives said the mother was a 12-year-old girl who admitted that she had thrown the baby down a trash chute shortly after giving birth in her apartment in the building. The 12-year-old, whose name was not made public, has not been charged with a crime.

The maintenance workers heard the baby's cries about 9:45 A.M. on Wednesday and called the police. The child, with his umbilical cord still attached, was taken to Brookdale Hospital, where he was treated for hypothermia, the police said.

The 6-pound-10-ounce infant was in stable condition Wednesday night, a hospital spokeswoman said. The young mother was also in the hospital for observation.

Investigators said the baby had not been injured by the fall down the chute. He will be placed in foster care when he leaves the hospital.

Water Bed Creator Gets $4.8 Million

Reuters

SAN FRANCISCO — A jury has awarded Charlie Hall, creator of the water bed, $4.8 million in a patent infringement lawsuit, according to Mr. Hall's lawyer.

The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court here against Intex Plastics, a company that imports water beds from Taiwan.

The jury ruled two weeks ago that Mr. Hall's 1971 water bed patent had been infringed.

Mr. Hall's lawyer, Jack Slobodin, said Wednesday that the jury's award amounted to about 9.5 percent of the company's annual sales of $50 million.

Mr. Slobodin said the judge would determine the amount of interest but that it would total about $3 million.

In addition he said, the jury found "willful infringement" in the case, which means the judge could award triple damages.

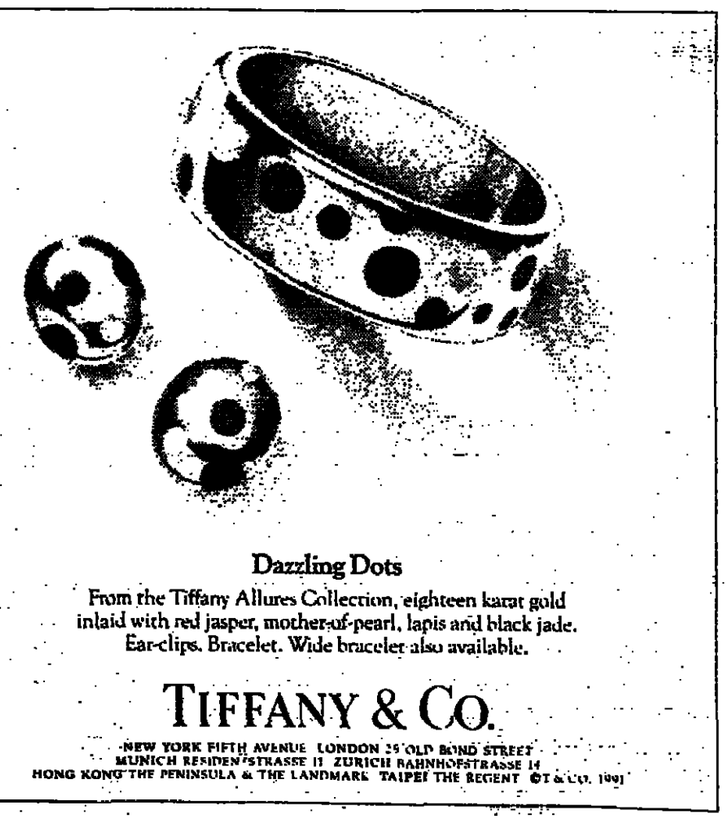
Mr. Hall, 47, who designed his first water bed as a college project, believes he is entitled to royalties for millions of water beds sold before his patent expired in 1988.

For the case against Intex Plastics, Mr. Hall raised $750,000 for lawyer's fees by selling stakes in the outcome to 32 partners. He has threatened to file similar suits against other companies.

U.S. Drug Adviser Sworn In

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bob Martinez, the former governor of Florida, was sworn in Thursday at the White House as the director of national drug-control policy.



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OPINION

Mr. Iacocca's Nonstarter

Lee Iacocca, the irrepressible chairman of Chrysler, is trying to persuade President George Bush to limit the number of automobiles imported from Japan. The American economy will not recover strongly from the recession, Mr. Iacocca argues, unless the domestic auto industry is prospering. Mr. Bush certainly should not, and probably will not, interfere with Japanese auto sales in the United States. But Mr. Iacocca's plea raises familiar questions about the future of the American industry.

He is asking for a temporary freeze on the Japanese companies' share of the American market "until the U.S. industry can get back on its feet." You are entitled to ask why the U.S. industry is once again off its feet. Mr. Iacocca attributes it to the recession and the Gulf war — meaning the leap in gasoline prices last summer. That kind of explanation was more plausible in the 1970s, after the first oil crisis and the first oil-induced recession, than it is today after the third. It is striking that the Japanese auto industry, like the entire Japanese economy, has succeeded in insulating itself from these repeated eruptions in oil prices far more successfully than the American auto industry or, for that matter, the American economy.

During the last recession, the Japanese companies kept selling cars briskly and emerged with a hugely enlarged share of the market. That is what Mr. Iacocca wants the president to prevent this time. But it is not so simple. Last year 31 percent of the cars sold in the United States were made by Japanese companies, but a lot of them were cars made in their American plants by American labor. Some of them were the small cars that Chrysler and General Motors import and sell under their own names.

America has had a lot of experience with restraints on imports of Japanese cars. They were in force in the early 1980s, and they were harmful not only to consumers but to the American auto industry itself. By cutting down on the supply of Japanese cars, these restraints — in effect, quotas — pushed up the prices. Instead of taking advantage of that to sell more cars, the American companies happily raised their own prices. Unable to ship larger numbers of cars to America, the Japanese responded — as many economists had predicted — by shipping more expensive cars and cutting into the highly profitable upper end of the American market. The American companies are weaker now than when the import limits first went into effect.

Even if Mr. Bush did not believe in free trade, that record would argue powerfully against further experimenting with limits on imported cars.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

A Smokers' Right to Sue?

Cigarettes kill, but Americans have known that for a long time and millions continue to smoke. May smokers nevertheless sue manufacturers for failure to give adequate warning of the dangers? The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to decide a critical part of that question: whether warnings on packages and advertising, required by federal law since 1965, immunize companies from traditional suits based on state liability law.

If the high court adheres to its recent precedents, the manufacturers will lose. Warnings like "The Surgeon General Has Determined That Smoking Is Dangerous To Your Health" would become, as Congress probably intended, not a shield from lawsuits but at most a defense at trial.

That would be fair, shifting some risk to producers but hardly guaranteeing that smokers will sue them to extinction. It would be far better if Americans could summon the wisdom or political will to kick their smoking habit. But legal pressure could at least keep companies aware that unbridled marketing carries its own risks.

The tobacco industry can expect a chilly reception in the highest court despite victories in five U.S. appeals courts. Increasingly hospitable to "states' rights" arguments, the justices recognize the power of Congress to pre-empt state laws, yet demand explicit language showing Congress intended to do so. The Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act forbids further state regulation but does not expressly forbid private lawsuits.

How would cigarette makers fare if forced to defend themselves against suits by smokers, or their surviving relatives, over a habit acquired after warning labels were added? Very likely, juries would be reluctant to reward many plaintiffs who contracted lung cancer because they chose to smoke despite the clarity of the warnings. Yet some plaintiffs might make a strong case that the industry had neutralized or drowned out its own warnings with seductive advertising and promotion. In short, the companies might face some risky litigation, a useful brake on promotional efforts that could obfuscate the warnings.

Lawsuits, of course, solve nothing. The best policy for smokers is to heed those warnings and kick the habit. It is scant consolation to know that your relatives may get a check if their lawyers can blame your untimely death on insufficient warnings by some errant tobacco company.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

How Not to Save Babies

President George Bush was right to acknowledge the tragically high infant mortality rates in many American cities. Congress was also right to say, as it did last week, that his plan to lower those rates was off base.

To finance an intensive effort to cut the number of infant deaths in 10 target areas, Mr. Bush proposed to siphon money away from some community health centers — specifically the centers' year-old rural outreach program — as well as from the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant. Ironically, the president's own Task Force on Infant Mortality had urged increased funding for both programs last fall.

The response of Congress, and that of several Republican senators in particular, was a loud "no." Mr. Bush, it said, was "robbing Peter to pay Paul" and "pitting rural babies against urban babies." Congress prohibited the shift in funds, and then added $25 million to the infant mortality campaign in the current fiscal year.

That $25 million, which apparently will not require cuts in other domestic programs to meet budget ceilings, is $32 million shy of the $57 million Mr. Bush hoped to put into his new initiative. But it is new money, not diverted money. While the president may have shown a commendable concern, Congress showed the greater common sense.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

The Burning Fiscal Fuse

Last year's U.S. budget agreement was supposed to have put the government more or less on automatic pilot for five years. Actually, it did so only for three. For the 1994 fiscal year — the first for which a budget will have to be submitted after the election in November — the agreement sets up another likely train wreck.

The collision is set to occur within the so-called discretionary spending category — the defense budget and range of domestic programs subject to the annual appropriations process. For fiscal 1991 through 1993, the budget agreement keeps a certain peace among these accounts by separating them — setting broad defense and domestic spending caps and saying that none of the money from one can be used to increase the other. But beginning in 1994 the caps are merged, so that the traditional competition between defense and domestic spending can resume.

The cap for 1994 was also set much tighter than the limits for the three preceding years, which will intensify the competition. To sweeten the budget deal, the negotiators provided for an increase in domestic appropriations of well beyond the inflation rate this fiscal year and about the same as expected inflation in fiscal 1992 and 1993. But to hit their fiscal target for safely distant 1994, they proposed that total discretionary spending not increase at all. That and the path on which the administration has set defense spending — basically holding it constant and letting inflation take it down in real terms — together mean that in 1994, domestic spending would hit a wall.

It is unlikely that either party in Congress — or for that matter the winner of the presidential election — will care much for that result. Something — the deficit, taxes or the domestic or military spending totals — will be called upon to give. The crunch will be all the greater if 1) events in the Soviet Union or elsewhere cause the administration (or Congress) to reconsider current plans for reducing defense forces or 2) the Congressional Budget Office is right in its most recent assessment of those plans. The budget office thinks that defense and fiscal policy are still on different wavelengths — that the budgets now in sight will not be enough to equip even the smaller force the Pentagon now has in mind with the costly weapons it still contemplates.

So if fiscal peace is what we have now, best enjoy it. The fuse is set. In about a year and a half, Budget Shield and Storm and all the rest are likely to erupt all over again.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment

A Strongly Worded Protest

Although its endeavors to unblock the Middle East peace drive have not yet gone beyond pledges and protests against Israel's provocative acts in the occupied Arab territories, this week the Bush administration did not bide its time to criticize Tel Aviv's decision to deport four Palestinians.

The United States delivered an unusually strongly worded protest to the Israeli ambassador and Foreign Ministry. A U.S. State Department spokeswoman, Margaret Tutwiler, was on the record as saying, "Israel's decision to deport Palestinians at this time cannot possibly contribute to the development of a peace process."

The U.S. reaction likely sets the stage for more tangible moves.

— The Egyptian Gazette (Cairo).

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Bonn Must Do More In This New World

By Michael Lind

WASHINGTON — The German finance minister, Theo Waigel, was in Washington this week to assure the United States that Germany would abide by its financial obligations in the Gulf war effort.

Last fall Germany belatedly increased its contribution in response to allied irritation with its military free-riding and to outrage at the role of its industry in arming Iraq.

Of the more than $11 billion Bonn pledged to the allied effort, the $5.5 billion directed to the United States will be paid by the end of this month.

Now that Chancellor Helmut Kohl has fulfilled this minimal commitment, the administration should make it clear that in future conflicts the new world expects more of the new Germany in the new world order.

Pressure to identify Germany with American foreign policy may be the last thing Mr. Kohl wants. Since January his popularity has plunged, according to opinion polls.

The chancellor, who underestimated the costs of reunification, has been forced to raise taxes — taxes that he claims are in part the result of Germany's war contribution.

Now the opposition Social Democrats are portraying him as a dupe who is allowing the United States to make a profit by accepting promised contributions even though the war cost less than expected.

Mr. Kohl's credibility gap in Germany is his problem. Germany's credibility gap in the world is ours.

The war is over, but the millennium has not arrived.

A strong and respected Germany, prepared to undertake military action with its allies in NATO and the Western European Union, is as important as ever, with Iraq inflamed by civil war, Yugoslavia in crisis and the Soviets cheating on the treaty limiting conventional forces in Europe.

To his credit Mr. Kohl continues to stress the importance of German participation in NATO. Early in the Gulf crisis, however, he did not contest the claim of the left that the West German Constitution prevented him from sending troops.

This claim is doubtful. The constitution arguably permits the armed forces to participate in collective security actions. The Italians, whose postwar constitution is far more restrictive, managed to send troops to fight against Iraq.

Ironically, in calling for an amendment to permit what many good legal scholars believe is already permitted, Mr. Kohl is giving the Social Democrats a chance to have the constitution rewritten in a way that will make it more restrictive.

The "political" excuses for German nonparticipation in the war are even less impressive.

Some in Germany suggested that sending forces would have raised the ghosts of military adventurism. Nonsense. Nothing could have exorcised phantoms of the Third Reich better than a few German fighters hunting down Scud launchers, to protect Israel from attacks by missiles that German business helped to build.

The real reason for Mr. Kohl's policy has been Germany's fear of the world, not the world's fear of Germany. Polls showed that large majorities of Germans supported the allied effort but wanted Germany to stay out of it. Similar majorities chose Switzerland as the best model for the united Germany.

Germany, however, can no more be greater Switzerland than the United States can be Canada writ large.

Rather than treating the unrealistic isolationism of today's Germans as a given, Mr. Kohl should have tried to shape opinion during the war by exercising leadership.

For examples of such decisiveness he need only have looked to past leaders who were willing to risk unpopularity in promoting the interests of Germany and the West.

Konrad Adenauer brought Germany into NATO against the wishes of many Germans.

Helmut Schmidt sacrificed his prestige in the Social Democratic Party to his resistance of Soviet nuclear blackmail of Europe.

Mr. Kohl himself recently displayed statesmanship of a high order when he seized a passing chance to unite Germany within NATO.

The spirit of Kohl present stands rebuked by the ghost of Kohl past.

Europe's most important nation could use, if not an Iron Chancellor, at least a chancellor with iron in the soul. It would be unfortunate if an uncertain Germany should find its image in a chancellor of wax.

The writer is executive editor of The National Interest. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

The Japanese Had Doubts

CONSTRAINED from sending troops to the Gulf by a war-renouncing constitution, Japan has contributed almost $13 billion — an initial pledge of $4 billion, then an additional no-strings-attached $9 billion — to appease Big Brother in Washington. But the Kaifu administration had its work cut out for it in convincing a skeptical nation.

To Americans, whose soldiers were at risk, it may be "only money," but to the Japanese it works out to a mind-boggling $75 for every man, woman and child. Most Japanese would consider that a fair price to preserve peace, but paying for a war was a different matter.

Initially, the Kaifu administration had several options for supporting the Gulf campaign financially. It could have provided economic assistance to Mideast countries hard-hit by the sanctions against Iraq, which it did. It could have offered aid to refugees, which it also did.

But once Japan agreed to pay part of the tab for the coalition military force, the taxpayers — who have had a deep pacifist streak since the disaster of World War II — were bound to start asking if they were really part of a "peacekeeping effort."

The Kaifu administration managed to pass the spending bill by striking a dubious bargain with the small Buddhist-affiliated Komeito Party. But it has not dispelled the pervasive concern among the public.

— Toshiro Uji, economics editor of the Tokyo Shimbun. This was translated by The Asia Foundation's Translation Service Center.

The Patriot Hardly Argues for a 'Star Wars' Defense

By Harold Brown

WASHINGTON — Advocates of the Strategic Defense Initiative are attempting to link the program to the success of the Patriot missile in defending against Iraqi Scud missiles.

They used this argument recently in the Senate in proposing legislation to direct the defense secretary to "immediately undertake the development and testing of systems and components designed to defend the United States and its armed forces wherever deployed from strategic and tactical ballistic missiles."

The issue was postponed, but later this year there will clearly be a strong push for early actions that would either openly violate the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty or require the president to give six month's notice of the U.S. intention to withdraw from the treaty. That would be a grave error.

Neither the technology of Patriot nor the task it had to perform bears much relation to SDI. Patriot was originally built as an air defense system, using technology conceived in the 1960s. In the 1980s, improvements in its software and warheads gave it a limited capability to defend against primitive short-range missiles like the Iraqi Scuds.

None of this involved funding, technology or management from the SDI program. Nor did it give the Patriot any capability whatever against long-range missiles that might threaten the United States. Even the Scuds, if armed with thermonuclear weapons — whose explosive power is a million times greater than that of conventional explosives — would have posed an insurmountable problem for Patriot. So Patriot's excellent performance in the Gulf does nothing to contradict the longstanding consensus that technology offers no reasonable prospect of protecting the American people against a sophisticated, large-scale nuclear attack in the foreseeable future.

Issues of defense against more limited threats are not new, but the Scud attacks have raised public consciousness about them. Two sorts of threats need to be considered in this connection: nuclear-armed fanatics in the developing world and unauthorized launches of modest size from some force in a splintered Soviet Union.

Proliferation of ballistic missile and nuclear weapon technology in the developing world is a serious problem. The first line of defense against it must be a tightening of the controls on export of the relevant technologies from the industrialized and newly industrializing nations, and strong political sanctions against violators on both ends of such transactions. Fortunately, only China among developing nations could mount a significant intercontinental ballistic missile threat to the United States during this decade.

Moreover, the argument that SDI would protect the United States from nuclear-armed fanatics does not stand up under critical examination. If Third World and terrorist weapons of mass destruction emerge as a threat to the United States, they are far more likely to be delivered by aircraft, ships sailed into U.S. harbors, or packing crates smuggled across borders than by ballistic missiles.

The threat to allies from shorter-range systems could develop sooner. An anti-tactical ballistic missile system or ATBM, however, would best consist of ground-based interceptors and radars. Weapons in space would be much less able to intercept short-range missiles. Moreover, ATBMs are not banned by the ABM Treaty.

As to limited threats from the Soviet Union, again the first line of defense should be at the source: close control and disabling mechanisms to prevent unauthorized use. The evidence is that the Soviets understand this.

If the United States decides at some point to risk abandoning the success of 40 years of avoidance of thermonuclear war through deterrence by embarking on a competition in strategic defensive systems, it would still be advisable to deploy interceptors on the ground rather than in space (with treaty-permitted sensors in space) for a limited defense, because the uncertainties and instabilities resulting from such systems would be smaller, and the chances of a negotiated arrangement with the Soviets greater.

But as of now, there is no reason to go beyond the research-and-technology development program permitted by the ABM Treaty, or even to deploy missile defenses at the single site it allows. Still less should the United States abandon or substantially modify that agreement.

The ABM Treaty's ban on nationwide missile defenses serves U.S. security by prohibiting Soviet nationwide missile defenses that would otherwise undermine the U.S. deterrent and force expensive American responses. If the United States were to abandon the ABM Treaty and proceed with the SDI system now proposed, the Soviet Union would inevitably further increase and improve its formidable strategic forces.

Abrogating the ABM Treaty would thus end any prospect for implementing the nearly complete START agreement to reduce offensive nuclear forces. Soviet strategic offensive force modernization has the greatest momentum of Soviet military programs; it is technically effective and sophisticated, and consumes only a modest fraction of Soviet military expenditures. It could respond quickly and effectively to a U.S. SDI deployment, ensuring an expensive and destabilizing offense-defense race.

Within the confines of the ABM Treaty as traditionally interpreted, America can and should continue a substantial ABM research-and-technology development program, to guard against technological surprise and provide future options for defense. It should also continue to improve defenses against short-range missiles, which (like the Patriot) the treaty permits. Efforts on limited defenses should focus not on something like the proposal for space-based "brilliant pebbles," but on ground-based approaches permitted by the treaty.

In my judgment, the ABM Treaty poses few obstacles to such a missile-defense program for years to come.

The writer was secretary of defense in the Carter administration. He contributed this view to The Washington Post.

Nothing Smart About This Arms Race

By Tom Wicker

NEW YORK — Wouldn't it be ironic if the resounding defeat of Iraq, led by the high-tech forces of the United States, resulted in a Third World newly armed to the teeth with "smart" bombs, ballistic and cruise missiles, helicopter gunships, Patriot-style interceptors and aircraft invisible to radar?

That would make wars between Third World rivals more likely, if one of them thought it had gained a qualitative advantage over another. Such wars certainly would be more lethal and destructive, and might be more likely to draw in forces from industrialized nations guarding their interests or promoting their weaponry.

Even without wars, the increased cost of arms buildups and rivalries among nations that could ill afford such weaponry would divert resources that could better be spent to encourage economic growth and fight endemic poverty.

Yet, just such a Third World race for the latest in lethal devices seems in prospect — encouraged, in all probability, by the Bush administration's inexplicable decision to aid U.S. military contractors in promoting overseas sales of their hardware.

The war itself, of course, has done the most to stir interest in the acquisition of high-tech weapons. Even the most backward and isolated national leader can hardly be unaware today that Iraq's vaunted army — said to be the world's fourth-largest — was quickly blown to pieces by the advanced armaments the United States and its allies used so effectively.

Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan, for one, drew the obvious lesson. "To undermine the science, technology, research and modern advances in defense is disastrous," he said in a speech in which he emphasized the need to make Pakistan "an impregnable fortress." If Pakistan goes that way, can India be far behind? Or vice versa?

The U.S. director of naval intelligence, Admiral T. A. Brooks, has said that at least 40 nations are seeking radar-evading "stealth" technologies, and that by the end of the century nine more states will join the six that already deploy reconnaissance satellites. Numerous countries now have the ability to build cruise missiles and their guidance systems.

Israel is acquiring submarines from Germany. France does an active arms-export business. China and others have ballistic missile programs, and the Chinese are willing to sell. The Soviet Union, in its need for hard currencies, continues to make available advanced jets and other weapons to Third World countries.

But name-calling does little good, for Uncle Sam himself is one of the world's biggest arms merchants — peddling $10.8 billion in conventional arms in 1989, second only to Moscow's $11.7 billion. These two accounted for $22.5 billion in such sales out of a world total of $31.8 billion.

Now the Bush administration has informed Congress that it wants to sell high-tech weapons worth $18 billion — including F-16s, Patriots, M-1 tanks and multiple rocket launchers — to five Gulf allies. With such weapons going to Arab nations, Israel's defense worries are bound to increase; and Israel already is one of the largest recipients of the Pentagon's grants and low-interest loans for foreign nations' arms purchases.

The administration also is siding with arms contractors who have been lobbying for restoration of government authority — unavailable since the late 1970s — to underwrite up to $1 billion in arms sales abroad. The proposal, if approved by Congress, would permit the Export-Import Bank to guarantee commercial bank loans made to overseas buyers of U.S.-made arms.

Administration spokesmen insist that there is no conflict with its stated aim of limiting arms sales to the Third World. The guarantees, they say, would be available only to the NATO allies, Japan, Israel and Australia, unless — a very big unless — the president found it in the national interest to include other nations.

Those spokesmen must be kidding. Only a few years ago, President Reagan found it in the national interest to sell arms to Iran. U.S. weapons sold to legally authorized countries, moreover, often have been resold to unauthorized third parties.

Any way you look at it, the Bush proposal would encourage the proliferation of weapons — including high-tech weapons, perhaps ultimately to Third World nations.

How can that help Mr. Bush build that stable new world order to which he pays such ardent lip service?

The New York Times.

Mideast Hope: A Formula for Peace

By Richard Murphy

WASHINGTON — As President George Bush said not long ago, "While people are thinking peace ... we ought to try to move forward now." But the president's counselors appear to be divided, some urging a more cautious approach to American-led diplomacy in the Middle East. This apprehension is unfortunate.

The president reportedly plans to travel to the Middle East as early as next month. He will receive deserved praise for his skillful leadership in coordinating one of history's most unusual coalitions.

Beyond that, Mr. Bush today has a rare opportunity — of a scope that has not existed since just after the 1973 war — to turn the ever-reluctant parties in the region onto the road to peace. The administration should exploit the circumstances by using the upcoming trip to assert U.S. determination to push ahead. Washington needs to think what moves it might make to transform the debris of war into a new platform for regional peace.

Whether there is already an American peace "plan" is unclear. But some developments in the Middle East offer new opportunities for American diplomacy. Most noteworthy are the closer ties between Syria, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Syria re-established diplomatic relations with Egypt in December 1989, eight months before the Iraqi invasion. In doing so it took a major step toward escaping the isolation that resulted from its support for Iran during the Gulf war. The decision to commit Syrian forces to help defend Saudi Arabia shortly after the Iraqi invasion led to a new intimacy of communication and understanding between Syria and other Arab members of the coalition.

For its part, Saudi Arabia will be interested in demonstrating now that its alliance with the United States can facilitate progress on the complex of Arab-Israeli issues, in particular on the Palestinian problem.

The Arab allies, including Morocco, may be accused of abandoning the Palestinian people and of destroying another Muslim country. But negotiations could allow the Arab leaders to show some sort of tangible effort on behalf of the Palestinians. Egypt, of course, has wanted to see other Arab states begin negotiations with Israel since signing its own peace treaty in 1979.

The possibilities for a new approach on the Arab side are clearer than on the Israeli side. There is widespread conviction in Israel that the prospects for improved Israeli-Arab relations are nil, based on a sense that the Arab states are unwilling ever to accept Israel's existence.

Mr. Bush's trip would provide an excellent opportunity to persuade coalition Arab allies to take a public stand on the question of dealing with the state of Israel.

Mr. Bush could ask them to signal unequivocal acceptance of Israel's existence in the region through a formula along the following lines: "Once the Palestinian issue is resolved, we would proceed to negotiate normalization of our relations with Israel." If Syria and Saudi Arabia, the latter in company with its five fellow members in the Gulf Cooperation Council, were to make such a statement, it would create a sea change of public opinion in Israel.

Are we asking too much of the Arab side? No. Its statement would be clearly conditional on resolution of the Palestinian problem. Also, to ensure momentum toward negotiations, any such Arab statement should be launched only when we have constructed what will be a generally acceptable framework for actual negotiations.

Middle East peace negotiations will be long and arduous. They will not be the shorter for having started on the basis of the above formula. But if we do not seize on the present opportunities, the parties in the region will soon lapse into their familiar negative assumptions. The United States, and only the United States, can jump-start the cold engine of the Arab-Israeli peace process. For the first time in many years, the road to a diplomatic resolution is clear of immovable obstacles.

The writer was assistant secretary of state for the Middle East in the Reagan administration. He contributed this comment to The Washington Post.

100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1891: Colonial Debate

LONDON — The *Times* intimates that the French do not know very much about colonies. It says: "As the proverb admonishes us, 'Bachelors' wives and maidens' children' have all the qualifications for perfection; and as the French have, in the true sense of the word, no colonies at all, their lectures on the proper way to manage colonists are not perverted by any struggles with experience."

1916: Deadly Air Fire

SUEZ — Another air raid was made yesterday [March 28] on the advance Turkish base at Bir-el-Hassanah, about 100 miles from the canal. Four aeroplanes from one base executed the first phase of the attack, and were followed by two aeroplanes from another point, which arrived just after the first four had dropped their cargo of bombs. The aviators routed a contingent of Turkish infantry which fired on the aeroplanes. Descending to about sixty metres above the soldiers, one aviator opened a deadly fire with his machine-gun, and the troops fled in panic toward the desert. The tents of officers were attacked. All planes returned undamaged to their bases.

1941: Mother of Despair

LONDON — Lord Woolton, Food Minister, declared at luncheon today [March 28] that war-time rationing has improved Britain's health and "despite the shortage of meat, eggs and fruits, we are a stronger, more vigorous nation." Emphasizing the silver lining of Britain's struggle to get enough to eat, Lord Woolton remarked that "dyspepsia from overeating is the mother of despair and indigestion is the enemy of morale." Some doctors have declared that the mildness of Britain's recent influenza epidemic may be partly due to the fact that Britons are eating less of everything, particularly meat, than before.

— From the New York edition of the New York Herald Tribune.

هكذا من الاصل

OPINION

To Stop a Slaughter, Say 'Freeze!'

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — President Bush was "sickened" at the sight of a man being clubbed senseless by police while a gang of cops looked on. Yet his stomach is not turned at the spectacle of an American army standing by and watching Saddam Hussein's gunships rain death on the Kurdish people for daring to answer George Bush's call for an uprising.

Having repeatedly incited Iraqis to oust the tyrant in Baghdad; having publicly promised to clear the air of the dictator's deadly choppers — Mr. Bush suddenly choked up.

What is to explain his loss of nerve and sense of moral purpose? The answer is Brer Rabbit's fear of the "tar baby": He does not want to become involved in a genuine uprising of Shiites in the south and Kurds in the north, because that might lead to "instability."

The only outcome Mr. Bush — and his Saudi and Syrian advisers — will accept is a military dictator of the Sunni elite not named Saddam. To this inglorious end, America is ready to turn its face away from the wholesale slaughter of innocents, and to abandon the last best hope of the beginning of freedom in Iraq.

Republican Guard troops, who run from foreign armies but enjoy killing their own countrymen, have put down most of the Iran-sponsored Shiite uprising in the south; now their tanks and aircraft will move north to retake Kirkuk from the Kurds. If unhindered by American forces, these thugs will use air cover that General Norman Schwarzkopf admits was "suckered" out of him.

This will make Mr. Bush the third U.S. president to sell out the Kurds. Richard Nixon did it in the '70s, at the behest of the shah of Iran for regional stability; Ronald Reagan did it in 1988, by rewarding Saddam with greater commodity credits despite the poison-gassing of 12,000 Kurds in Halabja.

The legendary Kurdish leader Mulla Mustafa Barzani, dying of cancer, was brought to Virginia exile with his young son by the CIA in 1975 after America's betrayal. I never met a warrior with fiercer eyes or greater dignity.

He repeated with rue the central saying of his 1,000-year-old culture: "The Kurds have no friends." Since that time, I have tried to be one.

Mr. Barzani's son Massoud was interviewed this week by American correspondents reaching the Iraqi portion of Kurdistan. Unlike most of the leaders opposed to Saddam Hussein, he is a fighter on the scene, not a voice in exile. He represents his people within Iraq, not the interests of bordering nations, and comes across as a true son of Mulla Mustafa.

His message: The 4 million Kurds who make up nearly a fourth of Iraq's population do not seek independence now; they will be satisfied with autonomy within an Iraq that respects the rights of disparate groups, religions, ideologies.

That conflicts with the desire of Iran, which wants a Shiite state; with Saudi Arabia, which wants a Sunni military dictatorship; and with Syria, which wants Iraqi anarchy.

But it will no longer upset Turkey, which has begun at last to recognize the ethnic heritage of its own 10 million Kurds. President Turgut Ozal wants his nation to be a part of Europe's economy and was undoubtedly moved by the Kurdish human-rights espousal of Danielle Mitterrand, wife of the French president.

Massoud Barzani's goal of a federated Iraq should be America's goal. After World War II, America did not re-install Nazis in Germany or militarists in Japan in the name of "stability." After Desert Storm, we should not demand a Saddam II — "our" tyrant — as if Arabs and Kurds were too mentally backward or culturally afflicted to deserve a chance at some form of democracy.

General Schwarzkopf told David Frost he had recommended against Mr. Bush's decision to cut off the ground war at 100 hours, letting Saddam survive in Baghdad; the president disputes this, in the first shot of the campaign of '92. But this much is indisputable: The premature cease-fire, intended to save Iraqi soldiers' lives, threatens to cost hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilian lives.

U.S. troops in Iraq should not be forced to stand idly by as anti-Saddam forces are slaughtered by tanks and gunships. The word Mr. Bush should deliver to Baghdad is "Freeze!" — no movement of armor, no northward deployment of forces.

Washington should dispatch a high-level emissary to Massoud Barzani. It should send a message to the Iraqi high command in Baghdad: Depose Saddam in 48 hours and begin negotiations with the Kurdish rebels — or else.

The New York Times.

The Republican Guard

If the Woman Is a Criminal, We Must Have This Wrong

By Anna Quindlen

NEW YORK — When the U.S. Supreme Court was considering the case of Webster vs. Reproductive Health Services, among the papers was an amicus brief containing the recollections of women who had had abortions.

One 70-year-old grandmother described three, all illegal. The last was the worst. She developed an infection and when her husband took her to the hospital, the men from the district attorney's office arrived at her gurney soon after the doctor did.

In the months to come, they called and visited her home, demanding that she name names. The deputies told her, she remembered, that she could be "the second woman to go to Tehachapi in California history" for the crime of having an abortion, Tehachapi being at the time the site of the prison for women in California.

Criminalizing abortion has always included this specter, the prospect of bleeding women carted off to jail by men in suits. To defuse it, legislators and lobbyists have said that providers, not their patients, should be prosecuted. It is what they said again in Utah this year, when the legislature approved the most restrictive abortion law in the country.

Unfortunately, the law was adopted with such extraordinary haste that it contained a loophole: It allowed for first-degree murder charges against women who had illegal abortions. In theory, those women were eligible for the death penalty. The fact that Utah still executes by firing squad only made matters worse.

Everyone was quick to say that it was an oversight, which is a peculiar way to think of a firing squad, and next month the legislature will meet again to fix it.

The criminalization shuffle that ensued reminded me of that long night's journey into day in 1988 when candidate George Bush said during an evening debate that he hadn't thought through criminal penalties for women who had abortions, and yet woke the next day certain that he opposed prosecuting them.

The first was the more honest answer. The problem with making abortion illegal, and making the illegality meaningful, is that the obvious person to prosecute, along with the doctor, is the woman herself. Those opposed to legal abortion dance around the inevitability of this by characterizing the woman as "the other victim," sold a bill of goods, temporarily insane by the very nature of the choice she made.

It is a view that is condescending and insulting. Surely there are some women who have abortions while undone by emotional stress. But surely the majority are responsible adults — remember that three-quarters of all abortions are performed on women over 20 — who are not victims but participants.

The grandmother in California was 37 when she had that last abortion, the mother of four who was determined to have no more children, and who set out systematically to find a doctor to help her break the law. If abortion is truly murder, then women like her are at the very least accessories. If abortion is truly murder, then the woman who has one has ordered up a contract killing.

The absurdity of those statements illuminates the greatest flaw at the heart of the way we talk about this issue. And that is that abortion is neither murder nor appendectomy, neither the killing of a full-fledged human being nor the removal of some vestigial organ.

Pregnancy is like no other condition of life, and comparing its ending to any other event is ultimately limited and usually pointless. We need an entirely new way to discuss the matter.

The Utah law is more of the same. In its refurbished form, it will likely exempt women from prosecution, and not because they are victims. It will do so for the very cynical and political reason that you cannot sell a law that does otherwise to the public.

Ordinary people know that abortion is something between killing and convenience, something not commensurate with either the shooting of another person or a tooth extraction. They know that women who ask for, even beg for the procedure are usually every bit as much a part of the process as the doctors who perform it, and that to prosecute one and pardon the other reflects confusion and calculation, not compassion.

Yet in Utah, legislators will gather next month to belie the complexity of that by statute, to pluck from this fiasco of oversights and unseemly haste a bill that is nothing but more of the same. And we will have gotten no further in going where we need to go, to that place where we recognize this thing as like no other, a thing distinct.

The New York Times.

MEANWHILE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Speaking of Victory: Congratulations and a Challenge

The doubts and anxieties that the people of allied nations had about going to war against Iraq's "hardened" army have been replaced with catharsis and jubilation. However, our congratulations must be tempered. The victory is incomplete. Yes, Kuwait has been liberated and an aggressor has been repulsed. But the people of Iraq are still being brutalized while the world community remains impassive.

The victories achieved in World War II were not simply due to the defeat of Nazi Germany and imperial Japan. The true victory lay in the fact that militarized tyranny was undone and in its place authentic democratic institutions were established.

It is not enough for the United States and some of its partners to pronounce that they want Saddam Hussein out of power. Nor is it the prerogative of any foreign nation to say who should rule Iraq. What the allied coalition should now be saying, with the same conviction and cohesiveness that it demonstrated when it went to war, is that the time has come for democracy in Iraq.

When the people of Iraq are granted the opportunity to freely choose their leaders for themselves and continue to choose them through fair elections, then the international community should shower Iraq — not with bombs this time — but with goodwill and helping hands. This will be the most important step in bringing a lasting peace to the Middle East and in making the allied victory complete.

ROBERT E. McNULTY.
Singapore.

Let us thank all who helped the Kuwaiti people regain their freedom and independence, and especially the Americans, who accepted the heaviest burden. America emerges from the war with high authority, the maker of a new epoch in world history. Freedom for all nations! And condemnation for aggressors who try to hold other nations captive.

VYTAUTAS REKUS.
Warsaw.

In light of the deaths of some 100,000 Iraqi soldiers and who knows how many civilians, as well as the many allied casualties, George Bush's sanctimonious gloating that "prayer is the key factor which has caused this thing to come to an end the way it has" ventures beyond the unseemly into the abhorrent.

SHEILAH FRENCH.
Paris.

Saddam, alive and well with his uranium safely hidden, pulls his gunships out of hiding to battle Iranian-supported Islamic fundamentalists in southern Iraq. The Kurds stir things up in the north. Yasser Arafat sits fat and happy in Tunis. Syria cements its hold on Lebanon. The ruler of Kuwait tiptoes home rather late to the worst man-made ecological disaster in history. Saudi Arabia wonders if the whole thing was really a good idea after all. Secretary of State James Baker returns home empty-handed. Israel remains the whipping-boy. Gosh, what if we'd *lost?*

ANDREW DAVIDSON.
Paris.

For me, and I'm sure for many of my colleagues, the report "For U.S. Troops, More Than Ticker-Tape Thanks" *(March 9)* was most heartening. I vividly remember returning from another war 20 years ago and having my combat ribbons ripped off my uniform by a group of activists who apparently were camping out at the San Francisco airport waiting for returning soldiers.

Job interviewers in those days candidly advised not dwelling on the war experience. It was considered as irrelevant, if not actually detrimental, to getting a job.

For Vietnam veterans, the outcome of the Gulf war is a victory, and perhaps a long overdue vindication.

JOHN A. LINDBLOM.
Singapore.

Echoes of Another War

Regarding the report "Painful Echo of French Indochina War" (March 21):

If Georges Boudarel is not punished for his collaboration with the Communist Vietminh, it will be an insult for the thousands who died for a just cause.

I would like to add that when the French left Indochina, they did so in an orderly manner and South Vietnam was free. When the Americans left they did so in a panic and the entire country fell into Communist hands.

BERNARD CAHIER.
Villars-sur-Ollon, Switzerland.

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COMPASS INTL HOLDINGS Ltd.
POB 455, Jersey 0534 27267
w Bond : Dollar Med. Term $ 10.91
w Bond : Ecu Multicurr Ecu 10.72
w Equity : United Kingdom £ 8.58
CREDIT AGRICOLE : MOSAIS
d Actions Int'l Diversifiees FF 109.57
d Actions Nord-Americaines $ 19.43
d Actions Japonaises Y 2125.08
d Actions Anglaises £ 17.82
d Actions Allemandes DM 31.33
d Actions Francaises FF 106.96
d Actions Esp. & Port. Pta 2451.06
d Actions Italiennes Lit 28441.78
d Actions Bassin Medit. Ecu 17.48
d Actions Bassin Pacifique $ 10.74
d Actions Europeennes Ecu 15.25
d Actions Agro-Alimen. FF 107.36
d Actions Sect. Comm. FF 105.73
d Oblig Int'l Diversifiees FF 109.94
d Oblig Nord-Americaines $ 15.73
d Oblig Japonaises Y 2043.59
d Oblig Anglaises £ 10.44
d Oblig Allemandes DM 31.17
d Oblig Francaises FF 111.61
d Oblig Esp. & Port. Pta 2143.03
d Oblig Italiennes Lit 26158.97
d Oblig Europeennes Ecu 16.74
d Oblig Haut Rendement FF 14.89
d Oblig Int'l Dv Sensib Red. FF 108.24
d Oblig Convert. Intern. FF 110.08
d Court Terme Ecu Ecu 14.88
d Court Terme US$ $ 15.80
d Court Terme FF FF 110.85
CREDIT SUISSE (Issue Prices)
d Actions Suisses SF 570.00
d Bond Valor £ Sterling £ 91.03
d Bond Valor D - Mark DM 103.00
d Bond Valor Swf SF 95.80
d Bond Valor US - Dollar $ 115.91
d Bond Valor Yen Y 9637.00
d Canasec $ 539.00
d Convert Valor Swf SF 141.35
d Convert Valor US - Dollar $ 183.17
d CS Ecu Bond A Ecu 98.69
d CS Ecu Bond B Ecu 131.93
d CS Euro Blue Chips A DM 248.48
d CS Euro Blue Chips B DM 248.48
d CS Euro Finance Fd A DM 233.04
d CS Euro Finance Fd B DM 233.04
d CS Europa Bond A DM 266.11
d CS Europa Bond B DM 291.12
d CS Fixed I DM 8% 1/96 DM 103.33
d CS Fixed I Ecu 8 3/4% 1/96 Ecu 102.80
d CS Fixed I SF 7% 1/96 SF 102.98
d CS Gold Valor $ 115.01
d CS Gulden Bond A Fl 94.27
d CS Gulden Bond B Fl 117.63
d CS Hispano Iberia Fd A Pta 25277.00
d CS Hispano Iberia Fd B Pta 25277.00
d CS Money Market Fd £ £ 1848.79
d CS Money Market Fd $ $ 1596.35
d CS Money Market Fd C$ C$ 1073.42
d CS Money Market Fd DM DM 1381.11
d CS Money Market Fd Ecu Ecu 1064.80
d CS Money Market Fd Yen Y 127858.00
d CS Oeko -protec A DM 208.54
d CS Prime Bond A DM 89.27
d CS Prime Bond B DM 107.50
d CS Short-T. Bond $ A $ 97.44
d CS Short-T. Bond $ B $ 138.42
d CS Short-T. Bond DM A DM 95.74
d CS Short-T. Bond DM B DM 120.11
d CS Tiger Fund $ 622.55
d CSF Bonds SF 74.50
d CSF International SF 132.25
d Energie - Valor SF 132.55
d Europa - Valor SF 228.75
d Pacific - Valor SF 140.25
d Ussec $ 755.00
CSFB FUND MGMT Ltd (0481-713996)
POB 22, St Peter Port, Guernsey
w Islamic Mgmt Fund Ltd. $ 987.38
DIT INVESTMENT FFM
d Concentra + DM 42.41
d Int'l Rentenfond + DM 74.09
EBC TRUST CO. (Jersey) Ltd
1-3 Seale St, St Helier : 0534-36331
EBC AMRO TRADED CURRENCY FUND
d Capital $ 23.880
d Income $ 14.698
INTERNATIONAL INCOME FUND
w Long Term $ 33.3003
d Short Term A (Accum) $ 0.4487
d Short Term A (Distr) $ 0.3863
d Short Term B (Accum) $ 0.9105
d Short Term B (Distr) $ 0.6489
ECU FUTURES PLC (44 71 225 3011)
d Ecu plc Omega Fund £ 1.53
d Ecu plc Oil Fund £ 1.26
ELDERS INTL. MGMT SRVCS
see PRISM ASSET MANAGEMENT
ELDERS SWITZ (030) 25 17 25
w Elders Australian AS 92.50
w Elders Int'l SF 103.75
EQUIFLEX LIMITED
w Europa A Fl 18.16
w North America A Fl 9.30
w UK Small Companies £ 5.16
EURO PACIFIC ADVISERS Ltd
w Meteor Y 119149.00
w Pacific Horizon Invt. Fd $ 2743.24
FIDELITY INT'L INV. SERVICES (Lux)
d Balanced Pfl Hedged $ 11.17
d Balanced Pfl Unhedged $ 11.50
d Conv. Securities Pfl $ 8.73
d Discovery Fund $ 18.10
d Dollars Saving Trust $ 185.24
d Far East Fund $ 69.64
d Fid. Amer. Assets $ 151.52
m Fid. Amer. Values III Com $ 100.73
m Fid. Amer. Values IV $ 100.47
d Fid. Australia Fund $ 15.31
d Frontier Fund $ 25.96
d Global Ind Fund $ 14.75
d Global Selection Fund $ 13.54
d International Fund $ 15.33
d New Europe Fund $ 9.47
d Orient Fund $ 107.77
d Pacific Fund $ 335.62
d Special Growth Fund $ 35.74
d World Fund $ 73.47
FINAFUTURES FINLEY (1-809-322-5837)
w Portfolio (Est.) $ 1.10
FOKUS BANK A.S. 472 428 555
w Scanfonds Int'l Growth Fd $ 1.4779
GAIA CURRENCY FUNDS
w Gaia Hedge I $ 119.50
w Gaia Hedge II $ 270.19
w Gaia Hedge III $ 88.65
m Gaia Guaranteed Cl. I $ 78.34
m Gaia Guaranteed Cl. II $ 89.83
GAM ANLAGEFONDS AG.
POB 144, 8034 Zurich Tel : 41-1-2514640
d GAM (CH) America SF 1688.00
d GAM (CH) Europe SF 77.07
d GAM (CH) Mondial SF 1285.00
d GAM (CH) Pacific SF 1913.00
GAM TRADITION ANGLEFONDS AG.
d GAM Tradition SF 898.00
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS INT.
45, La Motte Street, Jersey 0534 27301
CAPITAL STRATEGY FD Ltd
d American $ 1.480
d Asia Pacific Fund $ 2.151
d Australasian Fund $ 0.3685
d British £ 2.474
d Canadian Fund C$ 0.8553
d Eastern European Fd DM 4.391
d Emerging Markets Fund $ 1.1360
d European Fund DM 5.325
d Global Resources Fund $ 0.7211
d International Growth $ 2.941
d Japan Fund Y 614.0
d Ecu Bond Fund Ecu 0.9308
d Global Conv. Bond Fd $ 16.41
d International Bond $ 1.178
d Sterling Bond £ 1.8559
d Austr. Dollar Deposit AS 1.009
d DM Deposit DM 5.035
d French Franc Deposit FF 10.88
d Sterling Deposit £ 1.012
d Swiss Franc Deposit SF 5.035
d US$ Deposit $ 1.005
d Yen Deposit Y 503.1
GARTMORE INDOSUEZ FUNDS 28/03/91
Tel : (352) 46 54 24 470
Fax : (352) 46 54 23
BOND PORTFOLIOS
d Deutsche Mark Bond DM 5.09
d Dollar bond $ 2.04
d European Bond Ecu 1.03
d Global Bond $ 2.00
EQUITY PORTFOLIOS
d Developing Markets $ 2.16
d Europe Ecu 1.12
d France FF 10.07
d International $ 2.11
d Japan Y 281.00
d Natural Resources $ 2.89
d North America $ 2.32
d Pacific $ 2.26
d Singapore/Malaysia SG$ 5.98
d Switzerland SF 2.68
d United Kingdom £ 1.12
RESERVE FUNDS
d Deutsche Mark Reserve DM 5.05
d Dollar Reserve $ 2.82
d French Franc Reserve FF 10.08
d Sterling Reserve £ 1.02
d Yen Reserve Y 250.00
GEFINOR FUNDS
London : 071-4994171, Geneva : 41-22355530
w East Investment Fund $ 892.82
w Scottish World Fund £ 197.9193
w State St. American $ 287.78
GENERALE BANK
(See also Interselex Group)
d Rentinvest $ 27.10
d Capital Rentinvest $ 138.72
d Rentinbel Distribution LF 9350.00
d Rentinbel Capitalization LF 11851.00
GENESEE FUND Ltd
w (B) Genesee Short $ 80.92
w (C) Genesee Opportunity $ 110.82
w (E) Genesee Balanced $ 106.96
GLOBAL ASSET MANAGEMENT
11 Athol St, Douglas, I.of Man 44-624-626037
w GAM America Inc. $ 247.99
w GAM Arbitrage Inc. $ 227.72
w GAM ASEAN Inc. $ 175.16
w GAM Australia Inc. $ 116.83
w GAM Bond Fd Inc. £ £ 109.25
w GAM Bond Fd Inc. DM DM 77.22
w GAM Bond Fd Inc. SF SF 80.74
w GAM Bond Fd Inc. US Ord. $ 115.12
w GAM Bond Fd Inc. US Spe. $ 136.40
w GAM Bond Fd Inc. Yen Y 11387.00
w GAM Boston Inc. $ 312.43
w GAM Europe Fund $ 88.96
w GAM European Inc. $ 94.84
w GAM Franc-Val Inc. SF 188.59
w GAM France Inc. FF 1458.18
w GAM Global Fund $ 108.73
w GAM High Yield Inc. $ 94.38
w GAM Hong Kong Inc. $ 237.34
w GAM International Inc. $ 132.66
w GAM Japan Inc. $ 642.02
w GAM Mitl-Mar Deferred Cl $ 106.90
w GAM Mitl-Mar Fd Inc Allocs $ 118.59
d GAM Mitl-Mar Fd Trading $ 117.47
w GAM MitlMar Fd IncGenEqs $ 109.06
w GAM Money Mkts Fd £ £ 183.68
w GAM Money Mkts Fd $ $ 181.88
w GAM Money Mkts Fd DM DM 181.91
w GAM Money Mkts Fd SF SF 181.91
w GAM Money Mkts Fd Yen Y 10190.00
w GAM North America Fund $ 115.49
w GAM Pacific Basin Fund $ 120.42
w GAM Pacific Inc. $ 545.00
w GAM Restr. Fund Inc. $ 139.47
w GAM Selection Inc. $ 328.94
w GAM Singap-Malay Inc. $ 209.07
w GAM Sterling Spec. Bd Fd £ 107.21
w GAM Swiss Fr Spec Bd Fd SF 97.02
w GAM Tyche S.A. Class A $ 217.72
w GAM U.S. Inc. $ 194.90
w GAM Univ. Accumulation $ 107.16
w GAM Univ. D-Mark Acc. DM 112.17
w GAM Univ. D-Mark Inc. DM 112.17
w GAM Univ. Income $ 109.16
w GAM Univ. Spain Inc. SP 99.93
w GAM UT Inc. $ 398.45
w GAM Value Inc. $ 93.83
w GAM Whitethorn Fund Inc. $ 153.69
w GAM Worldwide Inc. $ 422.88
w GSAM Composite Inc. $ 239.95
GT MANAGEMENT PLC (44 71 238 4444)
d G.T. ASEAN Fund $ 44.90
d G.T. Asia Fund $ 18.58
d G.T. Australia Fund $ 23.45
d G.T. Berry Japan Fund $ 29.50
d G.T. Biotech/Health Fd $ 17.20
d G.T. Bond Fund $ 14.78
d G.T. Deutschland Fund $ 11.46
d G.T. Dollar Fund $ 21.02
w G.T. Emerging Mkts Fd $ 8.97
w G.T. Euro Small Co Fd $ 32.45
d G.T. Europe Fund $ 31.07
w G.T. Global Small Co Fd $ 15.37
d G.T. Global Techno. Fd $ 17.71
d G.T. Hong Kong Fund $ 32.45
d G.T. Honshu Pathfinder $ 12.50
d G.T. Investment Fund $ 14.96
w G.T. Japan OTC Stocks Fd $ 10.31
w G.T. Japan Small Co Fd $ 15.77
w G.T. Korea Fund $ 5.70
w G.T. Newly Ind Countr Fd $ 28.98
r G.T. Technology Fund $ 42.51
d G.T. UK Small Companies £ 7.87
w G.T. US Small Companies $ 15.35
GUINNESS FLIGHT FUND MANAGERS LTD GUERNSEY
GUINNESS FLIGHT Gibl Strategy Fd Ltd
d Managed Currency Fd $ 35.55
d Global Bond Fd $ 30.28
d Global High Inc Bd Fd $ 21.82
d Gilt and £ Bd Fd £ 10.140
d Euro High Inc Bd Fd £ 20.89
d Global Equity Fd $ 44.40
d American Blue Chip Fd $ 22.52
d Japan and Pacific Fd $ 74.41
d UK Fund £ 21.47
d European Fund $ 88.56
GUINNESS FLIGHT Int'l Fd Ltd
d Deutschemark Money Fund DM 70.259
d Sterling Money Fund £ 22.140
d Swiss Franc Money Fund SF 53.549
d US Dollar Money Fund $ 34.740
d Yen Money Fund Y 7084.336
HILL SAMUEL GLOBAL PORTFOLIO
1A rue Pierre d'Aspelt Luxembourg 1142
d H.S. Gbl Pfl £ Flx Inc £ 10.24
d H.S. Gbl Pfl Eur Flx Int DM 9.59
d H.S. Gbl Pfl Euro Eq DM 8.72
d H.S. Gbl Pfl Gbl Bond $ 10.01
d H.S. Gbl Pfl Gbl Eq $ 8.88
d H.S. Gbl Pfl Gbl Mngd $ 9.24
d H.S. Gbl Pfl Jap Eq Y 759.00
d H.S. Gbl Pfl N. Amer Eq $ 9.87
d H.S. Gbl Pfl Pac Bas Eq $ 9.26
d H.S. Gbl Pfl UK Equity £ 9.83
d H.S. Gbl Pfl UK Sm Co Eq £ 9.73
d H.S. Gbl Pfl US Sm Co Eq $ 8.86
HILL SAMUEL INVEST. MGMT. INTL S.A.
Jersey, P.O. Box 63, Tel 0534 76029
Berne, P.O. Box 2622, Tel 4131 224051
d Crossbow (Far East) SF 15.82
d CSF (Balanced) SF 29.73
d European Equity Fund DM 16.08
d Int'l Bond Fund $ 13.83
d Int'l Currency US $ 27.98
d Int'l Currency US Mngd $ 29.30
d ITF Fd (Technology) $ 16.05
d O'seas Fd (N. America) $ 50.67
IAM, 2 Bd. Royal LUXEMBOURG
w IAM Bonds Fd-France A FF 634.89
w IAM Bonds Fd-Allem. B DM 222.03
w IAM Bonds Fd-Japon C Y 10085.00
w IAM Bonds Fd Div. I FF 525.29
w IAM Europe Global Ecu 92.00
w IAM Europe Luxe Ecu 89.75
w IAM Europe 90/10 Ecu 172.85
w IAM Europe 1992 Ecu 96.92
w IAM Europe du Sud Ecu 89.27
d IAM Flexible Fund Ecu 83.35
INTERSELEX GROUP
d Int. America Sicav $ 18.19
d Int. Belgo Sicav BF 2841.00
d Int. Europa Sicav FF 6187.00
d Int. Pacific Sicav $ 100.11
d Int. World Distr. Sicav $ 95.43
INVESCO MIM INT'L. POB 271, Jersey
Tel: 44 534 73114
d Amer. Inc & Growth $ 1.302
d Asia Super Growth Fund $ 12.63
d Asia Tiger Warrant $
d Dollar Mngd Curr $ 14.89
d Dollar Mngd Pfl $ 2.237
d European Warrant £
d Gold & Prec. Metals $ 0.792
d Gtd. N.W. 1994 $ 8.35
d Int. High Income £ 2.336
d Japan Dollar Perf. Fund $ 3.245
d Jersey Gilt £ 0.1796
d Nippon Warrant Fund $ 11.21
d Okasan Global Strat $ 17.15
d Pioneer Markets £ 2.675
d Sterling Mngd Curr £ 16.67
d Sterling Mngd Pfl £ 1.698
d UK Growth £ 1.114
ITALFORTUNE INTL. FUNDS
w Class A (Aggr. Growth Ital.) $ 47.71
w Class B (Global Equity) $ 10.55
w Class C (Global Bond) $ 11.07
w Class D (Ecu Bond) Ecu 10.30
JARDINE FLEMING, GPO Box 11448 Hg Kg
d JF ASEAN Trust $ 23.96
d JF Far East Wrnt Tr. $ 7.26
d JF Gibl Conv. Tr. $ 11.28
d JF Hong Kong Trust $ 87.24
d JF Japan Sm. Co Tr. Y 66402.00
d JF Japan Trust Y 17775.00
d JF Malaysia Trust $ 18.54
d JF Pacific Inc. Tr. $ 81.32
d JF Thailand Trust $ 13.72
JULIUS BAER GROUP
d Baerbond SF 891.00
d Conbar SF 1778.00
d D-Mark Baer Bond Fund DM 979.00
d Dollar Baer Bond Fund $ 1131.00
d Emerging Europe Fund DM 104.19
d Equibaer America $ 1950.00
d Equibaer Europe SF 1479.00
d Europe Bond Fund Ecu 109.41
d Liquibaer $ 1995.00
d SFR - BAER SF 997.00
d Stockbar SF 1979.00
d Swissbar SF 2063.00
KIDDER, PEABODY
b Chesapeake Fund Ltd $ 1620.65
b Int'l Guaranteed Fund $ 1049.95
b Stonehenge Ltd $ 1269.61
b The Gbl Asset Alloc Fd Ltd $ 952.72
KLEINWORT BENSON SELECT FUND
d British Fund Ecu 2.03
d Emerging Asia Fund Ecu 1.81
d European Fund Ecu 1.88
d International Fund Ecu 1.78
d Japanese Fund Ecu 1.88
d Kanadia World Fund FM 10.57
d North American Fund Ecu 2.25
d Pacific Fund Ecu 1.71
LIPPO ASIA LIMITED
w Java Fund $ 8.08
LLOYDS BANK PLC. POB 438, Geneva 11
Deals 41-22-3073209/Inquir. 41-22-3073210
w Lloyds Int'l Dollar + $ 187.10
w Lloyds Int'l Europe + SF 181.20
w Lloyds Int'l Growth + SF 203.60
w Lloyds Int'l Income + SF 261.00
w Lloyds Int'l N. America + $ 183.20
w Lloyds Int'l Pacific + SF 171.40
MAGNUM FUTURES FUND Ltd
m Deutschemark Class DM 20.15
m Sterling Class £ 5.41
m US Dollar Class $ 9.13
MALABAR CAP MGMT (Bermuda) Ltd
m Malabar Int'l Fund $ 10.59
MAN INTERNATIONAL FUTURES
m [illegible] Mint Gtd. Fund Ltd $ 187.31
m Athena Diversified Fut. $ 10.09
m Athena Guaranteed Fut. $ 9.63
m Flame Mint Gtd Plc $ 123.38
m Mint Gtd Ltd - Aug 1995 $ 12.08
m Mint Gtd Ltd - Dec 1994 $ 14.75
m Mint Gtd Ltd - Jan 1994 $ 16.72
m Mint Gtd Ltd - Nov 1993 $ 20.67
m Mint Gtd Ltd - Spec Issue $ 21.41
m Mint Limited - Income $ 14.35
m Mint Limited - Ordinary $ 43.34
m Mint So Res Ltd (BNP) $ 115.67
m Newcastle Guaranteed Ltd. $ 12.47
MERRILL LYNCH
d Dollar Assets Portfolio $ 1.00
d Iberia Portfolio $ 10.65
d Multi-Curr. Bond Pfl Cl A $ 14.63
d Multi-Curr. Bond Pfl Cl B $ 14.63
d USA Income Portfolio $ 9.17
d US Federal Securities Fd
d Category A $ 9.58
d Category B $ 9.95
d World Nat Res Pfl Sh A $ 11.03
d World Nat Res Pfl Sh B $ 10.90
MERRILL LYNCH MLT NAT'L INV PFL
GLOBAL CURRENCY BOND SERIES
d Australian Dollar Pfl
d Category A AS 13.14
d Category B AS 13.23
d Canadian Dollar Pfl
d Category A C$ 11.10
d Category B C$ 11.16
d Deutsche Mark Pfl
d Category A DM 10.36
d Category B DM 10.43
d Pound Sterling Pfl
d Category A £ 11.58
d Category B £ 11.63
d US Dollar Pfl
d Category A $ 11.46
d Category B $ 11.57
d Yen Portfolio
d Category A Y 1034.00
d Category B Y 1039.00
MERRILL LYNCH MLT NAT'L INV PFL
EQUITY CONVERTIBLE SERIES
BASIC VALUE PORTFOLIO
d Class A $ 10.50
d Class B $ 10.39
CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES PTFL
d Class A $ 10.68
d Class B $ 10.62
GLOBAL EQUITY PORTFOLIO
d Class A $ 9.46
d Class B $ 9.23
EURO EQUITY PORTFOLIO
d Class A $ 9.96
d Class B $ 9.90
MULTIMANAGER N.V.
w American Growth Fd $ 10.36
w European Curr. Bond Fd Ecu 10.17
w European Growth Fd Ecu 10.99
m Futures Fd $ 9.44
w Japanese Growth Fd Y 1108.00
NIMARBEN
w Class A $ 287.55
NMB BANK, PO 1800, 1000 BY Amsterdam
w NMB Dutch Fund Fl 42.00
d NMB Euromix Growth Fd LF 2.283
d NMB Real Estate Fund Fl 38.90
w The Brazil Fund $ 1.07
NOMURA INTL. (HONG KONG) Ltd
d Nomura Jakarta Fund $ 8.55
NOMURA INVEST BANKING (M.E) E.C.
d Nomura Gulf Fund $ 8.34
OBLIFLEX LIMITED
w Multicurrency $ 24.46
w Dollar Medium Term $ 18.29
w Dollar Long Term $ 15.54
w Japanese Yen Y 3420.00
w Pound Sterling £ 18.12
w Deutsche Mark DM 13.39
w Dutch Florin Fl 13.64
w HY Euro Currencies Ecu 11.34
w Swiss Franc SF 10.74
w US Dollar Short Term $ 18.86
w HY Euro Curr Divid Pay Ecu 10.33
w Swiss Multicurrency SF 12.49
w European Currency Ecu 14.83
w Belgian Franc BF 99.99
w Convertible $ 11.32
w French Franc FF 113.77
w Swiss Multi-Dividend SF 9.98
w Canadian Dollar C$ 9.93
w Dutch Florin Multi Fl 11.38
w Swiss Franc Divid Pay SF 10.32
OLYMPIA Capital Intl. BVI
c/o OCM, 17 Av. George V, 75008 PARIS
Tel. 33-1-47238374
w Finsbury Group $ 134.31
w Olympia Securite $ 103.47
w Winch. Capital $ 182.18
w Winch. Frontier $ 264.72
w Winch. Fut. Olympia Star $ 183.28
w Winch. Hldg Int'l Madison Ecu 1042.98
w Winch. Hldg Int'l Ser D Ecu 1240.60
w Winch. Hldg Int'l Ser F Ecu 1264.59
w Winch. Hldg US$ $ 14.50
w Winch. Reser. Multi. Gvbd $ 14.87
PARIBAS-GROUP
d Cortexa International $ 109.30
d Eurocheirix Ecu 188.00
d Luxor $ 8.38
d Moneyflow LF 10197.00
d Par US Treas. Bond Cl B $ 148.83
d Paribas-Rente A LF 1264.00
d Paribas-Rente B LF 1460.00
d Parinter Bond Fund $ 15.51
d Parinter Fund $ 228.32
w Parvest Obli-DM A DM 1258.60
w Parvest Obli-DM B DM 1404.66
w Parvest Obli-Dollar A $ 1199.20
w Parvest Obli-Dollar B $ 1405.81
w Parvest Obli-Franc A FF 1467.75
w Parvest Obli-Franc B FF 1467.75
w Parvest Obli-Gulden A Fl 1028.43
w Parvest Obli-Gulden B Fl 1179.19
w Parvest Obli-Sterling £ 116.55
w Parvest Obli-Yen A Y 112705.00
w Parvest Obli-Yen B Y 122992.00
PERMAL GROUP
b Drakkar Growth $ 2283.47
b EuroMir (Ecu) Ltd Ecu 1116.84
b Media Ltd $ 902.48
b Nascot Ltd $ 1420.43
w Uschar Ltd $ 235.67
b Valca N.V. $ 1183.08
PIERSON, HELDRING & PIERSON N.V.
Rokin 55, 1012kk, Amsterdam (20-5211188)
w Asia Pac. Growth Fd N.V. $ 31.16
w Asian Selection Fd N.V. Fl 50.35
w DP Amer. Growth Fd N.V. $ 29.95
w Environment Growth Fund Fl 52.95
w Eur. Growth Fund N.V. Fl 40.55
w Japan Diversified Fund $ 45.25
w Leveraged Cap Hold. $ 370.56
w Tokyo Pac. Hold. N.V. $ 226.57
PRISM ASSET MANAGEMENT
(212) 332-1032 advisor to :
d Conqueror $ 101.66
d Prism Fut. Fd (EFF) $ 300.93
d PTJ $ 189.13
d Rainbow $ 122.12
PUTNAM
d Emerging Hlth Sc. Trust $ 28.83
w Putnam Em. Info. Sc. Trust $ 18.74
d Putnam Glob. High Growth $ 13.43
d Putnam High Inc. GNMA Fd $ 9.09
d Putnam Int'l Fund $ 12.06
ROBECO GROUP
POB 973, Rotterdam (10-4650711)
d Robeco Fl 109.30
d Rodamco Fl 55.30
d Rolinco Fl 99.10
d Rorento Fl 64.80
ROTHSCHILD AST. MGT.
w Tokyo Pacific Hldgs (Seq) $ 165.33
ROYAL B. CANADA, POB 246, GUERNSEY
w RBC British Fund Ltd + £ 5.343
w RBC Canadian Fd Ltd + C$ 13.72
w RBC European Fund + $ 12.42
w RBC Far East & Pac. Fd + $ 41.72
w RBC Int'l Bond Fund Ltd + $ 13.71
w RBC Int'l Capital Fund + $ 33.26
d RBC Mngd Currency Fd + $ 42.45
w RBC North America Fd + $ 14.83
SAFRA REPUBLIC HOLDING
w Republic (Gnsey) $ Inc Fd $ 9.51
w Republic Gam Fund $ 102.68
SKANDIFOND
SKANDINAVISKA ENSKILDA BANKEN
w Equity Int'l Acc. $ 13.27
w Equity Int'l Inc. $ 11.45
w Equity Global $ 1.26
w Equity Far East $ 2.88
w Equity Gold $ 0.66
w Equity Japan Y 122.00
w Equity Nordic $ 1.40
w Equity U.K. £ 1.21
w Equity Continental Europe $ 1.26
w Equity Mediterranean $ 1.03
w Equity North America $ 1.44
w Bond Int'l Acc. $ 9.36
w Bond Int'l Inc. $ 6.70
w High Income Acc. $ 1.30
w High Income Inc. $ 1.02
w Bond Sweden SKr 11.90
w Bond DEM DM 0.98
w Bond Dollar $ 1.10
w Multicurrency $ 1.33
w Enskilda Int'l Bond $ 100.15
SOCIETE GENERALE GROUP
SOGELUX FUND (SF)
w SF Bonds A U.S.A. $ 12.83
w SF Bonds B Germany DM 33.96
w SF Bonds C France FF 95.55
w SF Bonds D Switz. SF 20.96
w SF Bonds E G.B. £ 9.27
w SF Bonds F Japan Y 1675.00
w SF Bonds G Europe Ecu 13.30
w SF Bonds H World Wide $ 13.29
w SF Bonds J Belgium BF 618.00
w SF Eq. K North America $ 13.19
w SF Eq. L W. Europe Ecu 12.91
w SF Eq. M Pacific Basin Y 1514.00
w SF Eq. N France FF 78.60
w SF Eq. P Growth Countries $ 12.64
w SF Eq. Q Gold Mines $ 9.92
w SF Eq. R World Wide $ 12.69
w SF Short Term S France FF 329.58
w SF Short Term T Eur. Ecu 12.70
SOGELUX INDEX FUND (SIF)
w S.I.F. France Capital FF 1082.57
w S.I.F. France Distrib. FF 1082.57
w S.I.F. GB Capital £ 112.74
w S.I.F. GB Distrib. £ 112.74
w S.I.F. Japan Capital Y 14284.00
w S.I.F. Japan Distrib. Y 14284.00
w S.I.F. US Capital $ 171.66
w S.I.F. US Distrib. $ 171.66
w S.I.F. World Capital $ 138.31
w S.I.F. World Distrib. $ 138.31
SODITIC ASSET MANAGEMENT INC.
w SAM Diversified Inc. $ 110.77
w SAM Strategy Inc. $ 96.32
SVENSKA HANDELSBANKEN S.A.
146 Bd de la Petrusse, L-2330 Luxembourg
b Neptune Maritime Fund $ 8.01
b SHB Bond Fund $ 48.09
w Svenska Sel. Fd Amer Sh. $ 13.84
w Svenska Sel. Fd Germany DM 8.42
d Svenska Sel. Fd Int'l Bd Sh. $ 11.08
w Svenska Sel. Fd Int'l Sh. $ 49.93
w Svenska Sel. Fd Japan Y 541.15
d Svenska Sel. Fd Nordic Sh. $ 10.59
w Svenska Sel. Fd Pacif Sh. $ 4.45
d Svenska Sel. Fd S/T Ats Sh. $ 10.53
w Svenska Sel. Fd Swed Bds. SKr 1013.77
SWISS BANK CORP. (Issue Prices)
d America Valor $ 387.99
d Anglo Valor £ 194.87
d Asia Portfolio SF 557.26
d Convert Bond Selection SF 94.61
d D-Mark Bond Selection DM 105.66
d Dollar Bond Selection $ 132.21
d Ecu Bond Selection Ecu 97.79
d Florin Bond Selection Fl 110.25
d France Valor FF 1486.93
d Germania Valor DM 441.97
d Gold Portfolio SF 384.00
d Iberia Valor Pta 58638.00
d Ital Valor Lit 484082.00
d Japan Portfolio Y 30851.00
d SBC £ MMF £ 2222.88
d SBC 100 Index Fund SF 1063.00
d SBC DM Short A/B DM 1042.79
d SBC Ecu MMF Ecu 2918.83
d SBC Euro Stock Ecu 155.00
d SBC Sfr Bond A SF 1059.76
d SBC Sfr Bond B SF 1102.60
d SBC US$ MMF $ 6439.55
d SBC Yen MMF Y 529214.00
d Sterling Bond Selection £ 103.69
d Sw. Foreign Bond Selection SF 99.79
d Swissvalor SF 345.25
d Universal Bond Selection SF 73.75
d Universal Fund SF 104.02
d Yen Bond Selection Y 10793.00
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m T. Rowe Price Frontier Ltd $ 16.39
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d Class A-1 $ 9.71
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d Class A-3 $ 9.91
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m Dual Futures Fd Cl D Units $ 106.03
m Galaxy Futures Fund Ltd $ 110.11
THORNTON MANAGEMENT Ltd
d Eastern Crusader Fund $ 9.28
w Global Access Fund $ 9.65
d Pacif Invt Fd SA £ £ 9.35
d Pacif Invt Fd SA DM DM 27.84
d Pacif Invt Wrnt Fd SA $ 4.35
d Pacif Invt Wrnt Fd SA DM DM 12.95
d Thor. Litt Dragons Fd Ltd $ 21.76
d Thornton HK Gateway Fd $ 16.86
d Thornton Int'l Opp. Fd $ 1.71
d Thornton Japan Fund Ltd $ 29.72
d Thornton Orient Inc Fd Ltd $ 22.79
w Thornton Phil. Redev. Fd $ 23.15
d Thornton Tiger Fd Ltd $ 30.340
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d Indonesia $ 7.19
d Malaysia $ 8.27
d Thailand $ 9.97
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d Eurobond $ 31.18
d Mortgage C$ 14.57
d Overseas $ 26.46
d Tiger $ 43.96
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d Gilt £ 578.70
d Mngd Currency Dollar $ 1.045
d Mngd Currency Sterling £ 116.40
UEBERSEEBANK Zurich
d B - Fund SF 779.40
d E - Fund SF 528.92
d J - Fund SF 372.87
d M - Distribution SF 94.46
d M - Fund SF 1039.78
d UBZ Euro-Income Fund SF 9.58
UNION BANK OF SWITZERLAND
d Amca American Shares SF 41.50
d Bond-Invest SF 58.25
d Brit-Invest Shares SF 773.00
d D-Mark-Invest Bonds DM 199.50
d Dollar-Invest Bonds $ 113.14
d ESPAC Spanish Shares SF 198.00
d Eurit SF 323.00
d Fonsa Swiss Shares SF 200.00
d Francit Shares SF 172.50
d Germac Shares SF 212.00
d Globinvest Shares SF 105.50
d Gold Invest Shares SF 189.50
d Holland-Invest Shares SF 228.00
d Itac Shares SF 186.50
d Japan-Invest Shares SF 1271.00
d Sima (stock price) SF 224.50
d Skandinavien-Invest SF 236.00
d UBS Money Mkt Invest $ 1036.44
d Yen-Invest Bonds Y 82453.00
UNION INVESTMENT Frankfurt
d Unifonds DM 32.85
d Unirak DM 76.95
d Unirenta DM 33.65
d Unizins DM 106.50
UNIVERSAL GROUP OF FUNDS
d Universal Global C$ 5.54
d Universal Cdn. Equity C$ 10.42
d Universal Cdn. Resource C$ 4.45
d Universal American C$ 9.20
d Universal Pacific C$ 8.06
d Canada Guar. Mortgage Fd C$ 14.24
Other Funds
r Actiobligance FF 495.10
d Actifinance Int'l $ 1824.83
w Actifutures Ltd $ 1158.51
w Actigestion FF 1304.48
w Activest Int'l $ 26.73
d Amvabel $ 72.40
w Aquila International Fund $ 259.92
b Ariane $ 4140.76
d Asia Oceania Fund $ 9.14
m Associated Investors Inc. $ 770.87
b Atlantic Fund $ 74.23
r Australia Fund $ 16.78
w Balfour Maclaine Series 7 $ 1077.48
w BDD Inv Fund-Ecu Bd Ecu 3520.45
w BEM International $ 5.95
w Bergen Int'l Fund $ 17.30
w Bondselex-Issue Pr. SF 102.55
m Cal Futures 1990 Fd Ltd $ 94.20
d CB German Index Fund DM 116.16
w CFE Future Fd N.V. $ 58.84
m Cleveland Offshore Fd $ 17.94
w CMI Investment Fund $ 1480.00
d Colbert Court Terme FF 1196.03
d Colbert Croissance FF 74.02
d Colbert Finances FF 114251.19
w Columbia Securities Fl 93.22
w Convert. Fd. Int'l A Certs. $ 16.95
w Convert. Fd. Int'l B Certs. $ 58.77
w Cumber Int'l N.V. $ 210.93
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w Daiwa Japan Fund Y 8842.00
w Diso Income Fund FR 37.47
d Dreyfus America Fund $ 19.12
w Dumelux America $ 1900.06
w Dumelux Asie Pacifique $ 1030.06
w Dumelux Bonds Plus $ 1059.93
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w Dumelux France FF 6275.10
w Dumelux Opportunit. $ 1030.06
m Dumenil Arbitrage Fd NV $ 714.92
w Eas Overseas Fund Ltd $ 1188.00
d Emi Belg. Ind. Plus (A) BF 8894.00
d Emi Belg. Ind. Plus (B) BF 8894.00
d Emi France Ind. Plus (A) FF 845.73
d Emi France Ind. Plus (B) FF 845.73
d Emi Germ. Ind. Plus (A) DM 83.70
d Emi Germ. Ind. Plus (B) DM 83.70
d Emi UK Index Plus (A) £ 99.90
d Emi UK Index Plus (B) £ 99.90
w Espir. Sta Inv M Sth Eur Fd $ 10.29
w Esprit Sicav Ecu 1198.36
d Eurasud FF 1018.64
d Europe 1992 $ 9.87
d Europe Obligations Ecu 79.91
w F.I.T. Fund FF FF 119.75
w F.M.P. Portfolio $ 0.5271
w Fairfield Int'l Ltd. $ 156.15
w Fairfield Sentry Ltd. $ 215.95
w Fairfield Strat. Ltd. $ 62.15
m Fatum Fund $ 850.83
w First Eagle Fund $ 37471.62
m First Frontier Funds $ 85.14
w FL Trust Switzerland SF 90.68
d Fondinalia $ 81.74
w Fonselex Issue Pr. SF 148.65
d Force Cash DM Sicav DM 5217.99
d Force Cash Ecu Sicav Ecu 2654.84
d Force Cash FF Sicav FF 15836.29
d Force Cash US$ Sicav $ 3106.65
d Forexfund Limited $ 9.33
w Formula Selection Fd SF 65.59
d Frankf-Trust Effekten Fd DM 150.40
d Frankf-Trust Interzins DM 39.67
m Gems Progressive Fd Ltd $ 1075.17
w George V Inv. Bond F. $ 22.17
m German Sel. Associates DM 1531.93
d Green Line France FF 647.83
w Hasenbichler Com AG $ 1450.00
w Hausmann Hldgs. N.V. $ 352.55
d Hestia Fund SF 10932.00
w Hestia Funds $ 148.38
w Horizon Fund $ 1869.50
w Ibex Holdings Ltd SF 175.32
w IFDC Japan Fund Y 30898.00
r ILA-IGB $ 1.55
r ILA-IGS $ 9.94
r Int'l Securities Fund Ecu 26.97
m Interface Fund Ltd. $ 150.78
d Interfund SA $ 44.32
w Intermarket Fund $ 448.82
w Intersec SA $ 3772.54
d Investa DWS DM 67.20
w Investmentor Fund $ 106.86
m J Cunel Guaranteed Fund $ 10.16
w Japan Pacific Fund $ 214.66
m Japan Selection Assets Y 10621.00
w Japan Selection Fund $ 227.58
d JJ Placement FF 12631.33
w JWH Worldwide Fund $ 9.14
d Kenmar Guaranteed $ 10.98
w Kenmar Int'l - B $ 11319.00
d Kenmar L/C $ 9.15
m Key Hedge Fund Inc $ 109.77
w Kleinwort Bens. Jap. Fd $ 210.00
d KML-II H. Yield $ 598.84
w Korea Growth Trust $ 11.96
w LACO International $ 5.50
m Londex Vol. Francaises FF 996.71
m London Portfolio G'th. I $ 88.91
m London Portfolio G'th. II $ 8.39
w Luxfund $ 113.91
m Lynx Sel. Holdings SF 117.95
m Maritime Fund Int'l Ltd. $ 929.45
w Mat Growth ESCF DM 28.01
w Mat Growth USCF $ 11.40
w Matterhorn Offshore Fd $ 9775.90
w MBE Japan Fund LF 2068.00
m MCM Intl. Limited $ 143.78
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d NCA Fund $ 10.72
w Nippon Fund $ 109.80
d NM Inc. & Growth Fund $ 17.18
m NMT Asian Sel. Portfolio $ 115.25
w NMT Citadel Bond SF 115.67
m NMT Nostec Portfolio $ 129.63
d Nomura-Cap Int'l Eq Fd $ 14.81
d Nordinvest Lit 11700.00
m Nova Plus Fund I Ltd. $ 1058.88
w Novaeurope Ecu 2820.94
m NSP F.I.T. Ltd $ 10.39
m Oppenheimer U.S. Arb. $ 129.54
w Optimum Fund $ 1332.59
m Overlook Performance $ 1511.89
d Pacific Nies Fund $ 7.22
d PAM Futures Trad. $ 465.75
w Pancurri Inc. $ 186.79
m Paragon Fund Limited $ 18.35
w Plurivest International FF 113.76
d Precision Fd Ltd $ 77.99
d Profirest S.A. DM 1078.93
w Prosp. I.H. Inc. P.F. $ 3.37
w Putnam-Maine Barclays Pac. $ 177.70
w Quantum Fund N.V. $ 14562.38
d SAGA Court Terme FF 1220.28
d SAGA France Sicav FF 452.28
d SAGA Long T. Capital FF 1136.93
d SAGA Pacifique FF 1070.87
d SAGA Perspectives FF
d SAGA Premiere FF 1212.57
w Samurai Portfolio SF 287.90
d Sanyo Kls. Spain Fd $ 11.14
d Sarakreek Holding n.v. $ 18.50
d Saturn Fund $ 1141.48
d SCI / Tech. SA Luxembourg $ 18.69
m Schmiter Guar. Curr Fd $ 8.46
m Schmiter Guaranteed $ 8.86
m Securfund 2000 Ltd $ 5.00
m SLH Guar. F.F.I. $ 1054.34
w SP International SA $ 5729.30
d Strat. Int'l Gold Fund SA $ 4.06
m Sussex McGarr $ 1932.00
w Techno Growth Fund SF 51.34
d Templeton Global Inc. $ 7.85
d The Petrus Fund Ltd $ 1.03
w Thema M-M Futures $ 985.55
m THC (OTC) Jap. Fd Sicav $ 13.41
w Transpacific Fund Y 28482.00
d Triton Offshore Class A $ 252.87
d Triton Offshore Class B $ 237.81
d Tudor B.V.I. Futures LTD $ 7528.38
d Turquoise Fund $ 210.49
m Tweedy Browne (UK) n.v. $ 1356.23
w Tweedy Browne n.v. Cl A $ 3670.21
w Tweedy Browne n.v. Cl B $ 1728.29
d Uni Bond Fund Ecu 1449.48
r Uni Capital Fund Ecu 1212.80
d Unico Equity Fund DM 61.34
d Unico Inv. Fund DM 69.56
m Unitrad $US $ 1082.16
m Unitrad FF FF 11159.44
m Unitrad SF SF 1098.61
d Univers Bonds DM 144.54
w Ursus Int'l Ltd $ 8761.00
w Vanderbilt Assets $ 16.23
m Victor Futures Fund $ 222.21
w Wilier Asian Fund $ 10.30
w Willerbond Capital $ 14.55
d Win Global Fd Bd Pfl Ecu 102.50
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d Win Global Fd Res. Pfl SF 223.63
d World Balanced Fund S.A. $ 12.37
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In Burma, No Sign Army Will Ease Grip

By Steven Erlanger
New York Times Service

BANGKOK — Nearly a year after the military government in Burma was repudiated in free elections, the prospect of any transfer of power to elected civilian authorities has grown increasingly remote, Western diplomats say.

"It is quite clear that the military regime will not transfer power in the foreseeable future to any form of representative civilian government," said an analyst who lives in the Burmese capital, Rangoon, and who spoke here Wednesday.

He said that the military had a deep distrust "for anyone remotely resembling a politician."

After military repression, he said, the National League for Democracy, the opposition party that swept elections for a People's Assembly last May, "is already virtually a corpse," with its leadership under arrest and a quarter of the party's 396 elected representatives "in jail, in exile or disappeared."

As many as 500 party members are in prison, diplomats said by telephone from Rangoon. The assembly has never been allowed to meet.

The League has announced that it will no longer have any contacts with foreign embassies, for fear of being arrested as spies, the analyst said.

The League has also been forced, under threat of banning, to repudiate some party members who formed a coalition government-in-exile in December. This government is based at Maniplaw, in an area near Thailand long controlled by the Karen, one of Burma's minorities who are fighting the central government for autonomy.

No foreign government has recognized the coalition, which although made up of elected representatives and forwarding a moral claim to legitimacy has no standing under international law.

Abuses of political prisoners are growing worse, the diplomats said, with food rations worsening, meat provided only once or twice a week and harsh questioning that has been described as torture by the U.S. Embassy and human-rights organizations like Asia Watch and Amnesty International.

The analyst described a woman who had been jailed for questioning in a small, brick cell with only one opening and no sanitary facilities. Food was allowed in, but nothing allowed out.

"I leave it to you to imagine what the cell was like after two weeks," he said, when the woman finally signed the documents the authorities wanted her to sign.

U Maung Ko, a labor organizer and elected member of the People's Assembly for the League, was arrested in October. On Nov. 9, family members were told he had committed suicide in prison. A mistake by the mortuary, the analyst said, allowed family members to view Mr. Maung Ko's body, which displayed "very clear signs of torture."

General Khin Nyunt, one of the junta leaders, later said at a news conference that U Maung Ko had been so filled with remorse for providing interrogators valuable information that "he went back to his cell and killed himself."

Since then, the analyst said, there have been at least two cases of mysterious deaths in custody. One family was told that its relative, a man of 52, died within weeks of his arrest of leukemia, a disease he never had had.

A recent confidential report by a UN investigator led to a unanimous condemnation of the government by the UN Human Rights Commission on Feb. 26. The investigator, Professor Sadako Ogata of Japan, visited Burma in November, before being named UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Mrs. Ogata was not allowed to meet any detained political leaders or visit any prisons, but described a repressive society, with citizens living in fear, universities closed, martial law in force with a curfew from 11 P.M. to 4 A.M. and a ban on outdoor meetings of five people or more, with indoor meetings requiring a permit.

In the May elections, which were the first free polls in three decades, the National League for Democracy won 82 percent of the 485 seats at stake, even though its leaders, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo, had been put under house arrest in July 1989 and kept incommunicado since then. Mr. Tin Oo has been in jail since December 1989.

The analyst said that Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi was believed to remain under house arrest in her mother's house in central Rangoon, although lights no longer are visible from its windows. That is probably due to the installation of light-proof curtains, he suggested.

Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of the assassinated father of Burmese independence, U Aung San, has also been barred from seeing her husband and children, who live abroad, since Christmas 1989. The idea seems to be to increase psychological pressure on her to agree to exile from Burma, the diplomats suggested.

The military, the analyst said, sees her as key to the entire opposition in the country and continues to try to persuade her to leave voluntarily. The military apparently fears that either trying or expelling her could produce large popular demonstrations akin to those in August and September 1988, which the military put down by force, killing some 3,000 people.

Guerrillas Launch an Offensive

Reuters

MAE SOT, Thailand — A combined force of ethnic guerrillas and student dissidents has launched an offensive against government troops in eastern Burma, with casualties heavy on both sides, Thai Army and rebel sources said Thursday.

Burmese jets flew bombing raids against the insurgents, causing serious casualties, and 24 government troops were killed Tuesday, the sources said. They gave no details of the insurgents' casualties.

The rebels are trying to recapture their former base at Phaw Hta, just over 30 kilometers (20 miles) from the town of Maniplaw, headquarters of the Karen National Union. The union and the students lost Phaw Hta to the government three weeks ago.

The Karen are Christian guerrillas who have fought for more than 40 years for more autonomy from Rangoon. They lost most of their main border positions in recent months to government offensives.

The insurgents number about 1,500, Thai Army sources said. The Burmese force defending Phaw Hta is about 1,000.

Rights Report Stirs Pinochet

He Criticizes Findings on Abuses in Chile as One-Sided

By Nathaniel C. Nash
New York Times Service

SANTIAGO — General Augusto Pinochet has issued a sweeping criticism of a government human-rights report issued this month that cataloged the killing or disappearances of more than 2,000 people in Chile during his 17-year military government.

Addressing an assembly of his top military commanders, General Pinochet denounced the report as a one-sided assessment of events in Chile after the September 1973 coup and said it was written by people unqualified to judge the actions of the Chilean Army.

"Its content reveals an unpardonable refusal to recognize the real causes that motivated the action to rescue the nation on Sept. 11, 1973," he told the group Wednesday. He was referring to the date on which the military overthrew the government of President Salvador Allende Gossens.

General Pinochet also rejected requests by some politicians that he make a public apology.

"The Chilean Army certainly sees no reason to ask pardon for having fulfilled its patriotic duty," he said.

The speech represented a critical test of the yearold democratic government of President Patricio Aylwin, by challenging the validity of his effort to deal with the era of rights abuses.

Although General Pinochet, who retains command of the army, is not trying to oust the current government, these officials said, he is determined to make sure that neither he nor any of his key officials are prosecuted for rights violations.

A government official said Wednesday that he was pleased with General Pinochet's reaction to the report.

"He has been actually more relaxed than we anticipated," said the official, Edgardo Boeninger, Mr. Aylwin's executive secretary. "He has not threatened any more display of force or an aggressive attitude. The discussion has been much more conceptual."

"Our feeling is that if we can avoid confrontational politics we are better off," Mr. Boeninger said. "But what we want to do is give him a forum in which he can express his views."

The rights report lays blame for almost all of the killings or disappearances of Chileans after the military coup in September 1973 on General Pinochet and his government. It concluded that his government had carried out a systematic plan to eliminate all opposition from the extreme left.

The report looked at killings by anti-government forces as well as by the military. But of the 2,279 cases described, only 132 involved military personnel or members of the security police killed by leftist guerrillas.

The report's author, the National Commission for Truth and Reconciliation, was formed last April by the newly elected Aylwin government. It was asked to investigate cases of deaths and disappearances, but not the thousands of cases of torture in which the victims survived. Also, it could not force military personnel to testify or produce documents.

Moreover, when he took the presidency last year, Mr. Aylwin agreed to abide by a law established by General Pinochet that gave amnesty to anyone accused of rights violations from 1973 through 1978. Abuses after 1978 are subject to prosecution.

China's Coal Use Won't Be Curbed

Reuters

BEIJING — Coal will remain China's major energy source for the "foreseeable future," a Chinese environmental official said Thursday.

Foreign environmental experts have said that China's best chance of improving its air quality would be to curb its dependence on coal, a highly polluting source, for heating, cooking and industrial use.

But the scarcity of domestic oil and the lack of adequate funds to harness water power force China to rely on coal, said Wang Yuqing, an official at the National Environmental Protection Agency. He said China would still be counting on coal for 70 percent of its energy needs by the year 2000.

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WALL STREET WATCH

Seeking Real Bargains In Chapter 11 Survivors

By Diana B. Henriques
New York Times Service

BALTIMORE — John C. Boland, a former newspaperman, labors over his computer keyboard in a brick garret whose walls are lined with vintage paperback mystery novels, while tea cools in a lumpy pottery mug and four cats (one named Mouse) grumble in the cozy kitchen two floors below.

The result of all this homespun activity is Bankruptcy Values, one of the quirkiest institutional newsletters in the burgeoning field of bankruptcy investing.

Let others on Wall Street huff and puff over the prospect of investing in well-worn bankruptcies like Continental Holdings or Revco D.S. As editor and publisher of Bankruptcy Values, Mr. Boland travels off the beaten path, seeking old-fashioned bargains among the most obscure veterans of Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings.

> 'You have to be prepared to look like a fool for a long time before something works.'

"I take a rigid value approach," he said, after hushing the cats and fielding the phone. "In fact, the popularity of a situation is a sure sign to me that it's getting dangerous."

Those signs are proliferating sharply these days, Mr. Boland warns, as more Wall Street players flock to the distressed-securities game. "The business is attracting a lot of people whose very presence is lowering the returns," he said.

Some of the companies Mr. Boland follows, while hardly household names, have had spectacular recoveries after leaving Chapter 11. He was an early investor in the various securities of Todd Shipyards Corp., which filed for bankruptcy protection in August 1987 and emerged on Jan. 22 in reorganized form.

As the company cleared the courthouse door, Mr. Boland continued to recommend its stock, which was trading around $4 a share. But the shares have traded as high as $5.875 in recent weeks, and Mr. Boland said last week that he now thinks they are a trifle expensive.

THERE have been duds in his portfolio, too — companies that went from obscurity to oblivion. "This is a business where there is so much risk in everything you do, that you have to be prepared to look like a fool for a long time before something works," he said. "And sometimes, you just stop and try something else."

In some ways, that is how Mr. Boland came to be producing Bankruptcy Values. An editor at the Baltimore Sun and then a senior editor at Barron's, he struck off on his own in 1983. First came a book on Wall Street personalities, and then his first newsletter, Value Investing in Special Situations.

After the 1987 market collapse, Mr. Boland scrapped his first newsletter and focused on Bankruptcy Values. But his latest picks have already left bankruptcy behind. That's where the values are, he said.

Unfortunately, many of his favorites are low-priced and volatile stocks that trade infrequently and are largely ignored by analysts. Acknowledging those risks, Mr. Boland insists on an extremely diverse portfolio and does a lot of firsthand, albeit reluctant, research.

He shuddered as he described a trip through the Nevada sandscape to check out Mego Corp., a recent pick.

But the trip confirmed that Mego, the successor to a bankrupt toy manufacturer, is "a real company, with real assets and real earnings." And real glitter, too: Mego's chairman and one of its large shareholders is Robert Nederlander of Nederlander Organization, whose investments include a theater empire and the New York Yankees baseball team.

Another big investor and board member is Wilbur L. Ross of Rothschild Inc., one of the best-known creditor negotiators in the bankruptcy game. The company's share price is roughly equal to its earnings and considerably lower than book value, and Mr. Boland has been buying the stock and advising clients to do likewise.

Elsevier To Buy Pergamon

£440 Million Deal Cuts Maxwell Debt

Reuters

AMSTERDAM — The Dutch publisher Elsevier NV announced Thursday it had agreed to pay £440 million ($766 million) for the scientific publisher Pergamon Press, the original core of Robert Maxwell's Maxwell Communication Corp.

Share analysts described the deal as good for both sides.

For the ebullient British media tycoon, it will help reduce his company's debt of around $1.7 billion.

Mr. Maxwell has outlined plans to shed his European television interests and much of his printing businesses to focus on newspapers and publishing. He bought The New York Daily News earlier this month and plans the public flotation in April of his privately held Mirror Group Newspapers.

For Elsevier, the deal will strengthen its leading position in the scientific-publishing market, with its good cash flow and recession-proof nature.

"This will make them virtually untouchable in scientific publishing," said Roel Gooskens of the brokers Van Meer James Capel.

Oxford-based Pergamon Press publishes more than 400 English-language journals for academic, professional and industrial research workers, and reference books covering such subjects as medicine, chemistry and information science.

"It's pricey but the quality of what they are buying is very high," said Kees de Kort, analyst at Bar-

See PERGAMON, Page 8

Daimler Buys Into Recycling

Car Conglomerate Getting 10% of Metallgesellschaft

By Richard E. Smith
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — Daimler-Benz is acquiring 10 percent of Metallgesellschaft AG in a deal that will bring together Germany's car and metals giants in fields ranging from auto recycling to weapons dismantling and Soviet trade.

Daimler said Thursday that the stake was being purchased from Dresdner Bank AG, which will retain 13.3 percent of Metallgesellschaft shares. The value of the transaction has been estimated by analysts to be in a range of 350 million to 500 million Deutsche marks ($205 million to $295 million).

Daimler-Benz shares rose by 14.50 DM to 643 on Thursday, while those of Metallgesellschaft climbed 8 DM to 487.50 on the news.

The transaction, which was reported in the local press and confirmed by officials of the companies, took place at the end of last year, but it will not be officially announced until the supervisory boards of Daimler-Benz and Dresdner Bank give their approval next month.

Metallgesellschaft, one of Europe's leading concerns in environmental technology, has long been developing techniques to recycle or dispose of components in old vehicles. Daimler-Benz, for its part, has paid more attention in new models to their ultimate disposability and has been working to polish its image as a leader of environmental consciousness in the auto industry.

Analysts said that the common interest in auto recyling was probably the most important objective for Daimler-Benz in the transaction.

The company had once before held a stake in Metallgesellschaft, but at that time Daimler-Benz was more interested in its auto-parts operations. That holding of 9 percent, acquired in 1981, was resold several years later for antitrust reasons.

Another area of possible cooperation will be weapons dismantling, company sources said. The extensive weapons-producing units of Daimler-Benz have been searching for new activities against the background of easing East-West tensions.

The search may be all the more energetic since the company has recently been the subject of allegations — which it denies — of illegal sales of military equipment to Iraq and other foreign buyers. In addition, the company's chairman, Edzard Reuter, last week called on the European Community to control weapons exports in a highly publicized initiative.

> Weapons dismantling and Soviet trade are other likely areas of cooperation.

At the same time, analysts noted that the market for expertise in disposing of old weapons may be boosted by the clean-up that will probably have to take place when Soviet forces leave eastern Germany.

"There will be a huge clean-up, because the Soviet Union is not likely to do a spring cleaning before it leaves," said Susanne Oliver, an analyst with Hoare Govett Ltd. in London.

A third area of likely cooperation will be in the area of trade ties with the Soviet Union, in which Metallgesellschaft is one of Germany's most experienced companies, company sources said. Daimler-Benz has several major projects under discussion or under way in the Soviet Union but has had trouble getting some off the ground because of political and economic uncertainties in that country.

Dresdner Bank has progressively cut its stake in Metallgesellschaft as part of a broad effort over the last two decades to cut back industrial holdings. The bank, which once held roughly one-third of Metallgesellschaft, sold off parcels in 1980 and in 1987 before bringing the stake down to 10 percent with the current transaction.

In similar moves, Dresdner Bank sold off stakes in the retailer Kaufhof AG in 1980, in the construction company Bilfinger & Berger in 1981 and in the transport concern Hapag Lloyd in 1987.

By coincidence, Daimler-Benz and Metallgesellschaft are two of the German companies in which the Kuwaiti government holds major stakes. The Kuwait Investment Authority holds more than 20 percent of Metallgesellschaft and about 14 percent of Daimler-Benz.

Analysts said this may play a role someday if Kuwait needs liquidity and if Daimler-Benz wants to increase its stake in Metallgesellschaft. Since all three parties have close ties, the sale of a further stake to Daimler-Benz might be relatively easy to arrange, they said.

AT&T Unseats 4 Incumbents On NCR Board

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

DAYTON, Ohio — American Telephone & Telegraph Co., pressing a $6 billion hostile takeover of NCR Corp., apparently unseated four incumbent NCR directors Thursday, including Chairman Charles E. Exley Jr., at the company's annual meeting.

NCR stock jumped on optimism that a deal would be struck, as both sides in the battle signaled that a nonhostile agreement was more likely than a clear vote in AT&T's favor.

It was uncertain whether AT&T mustered the 80 percent majority at the shareholders' meeting necessary to remove and replace all 13 NCR directors — a move that would allow AT&T to dismantle NCR's poison-pill takeover defense.

Spokesmen for both companies said official results will be unavailable for about two weeks, while votes are certified as required because of the proxy contest.

Sources on both sides said they believed AT&T managed the simple majority required to elect its four-candidate slate to the board and defeat the NCR slate seeking re-election — which included both Mr. Exley and NCR President Gilbert Williamson.

With control of four seats on the board, AT&T might have enough clout to make life difficult for NCR, increasing the pressure on the fifth-largest U.S. computer maker to capitulate to AT&T's $90-per-share offer.

Investors were encouraged by comments made after the meeting, pushing NCR stock up $1.875 to $99.50 on the New York Stock Exchange. The stock has jumped from less than $57 before the takeover bid was launched. Shares of AT&T were off 37.5 cents to $34.375.

Company spokesmen said the vote to remove and replace the entire NCR board, which requires support by 80 percent of all stock outstanding, had been expected to be close. The NCR source said he believed it would go in NCR's favor, while the AT&T executive said the company had "a good chance."

AT&T wanted to replace NCR's board with its own slate so it could dismantle the company's takeover defenses and buy it without opposition. The phone company would have increased its offer to $100 a share if NCR shareholders threw out all members of the board.

At last count, in mid-February, AT&T said about 66 percent of outstanding NCR shares had been tendered under its $90-a-share offer.

Financial advisers to AT&T and NCR met Wednesday at NCR's request to review an NCR proposal for a negotiated merger at $110 a share, or about $7.4 billion — a 22 percent increase over AT&T's current offer of $6 billion.

AT&T refused to meet the $110 price, which marked a rollback by NCR. In rejecting AT&T's proposal last December, NCR directors had said they would not even discuss an offer of less than $125 a share.

In a brief statement issued early Thursday, NCR said it had received no new offer from AT&T.

"However," the statement said, "NCR expects that discussions will continue."

AT&T proposes to combine its computer business with NCR in a new corporate entity that would operate under the NCR name and with present NCR management.

The meetings Thursday were the high point so far in a takeover effort that has targeted NCR as the best way to help resurrect AT&T's own flagging computer business. *(UPI, AP, Reuters)*

IBM to Cut 14,000 Jobs In Cost Move

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

ARMONK, New York — International Business Machines Corp. said Thursday it will cut more than 14,000 jobs this year, or nearly 4 percent of its work force, in a major effort to lower costs.

The job cuts, IBM's fourth large-scale reduction program in recent years, come as the U.S. recession has bitten hard into the already-competitive computer business.

The world's largest computer maker also said it will take a one-time charge of $2.3 billion in the first quarter because of an accounting change on pension obligations.

The two moves are not expected to have a material impact on operating results this year, IBM said.

The announcement was well-received on Wall Street. IBM stock rose $1.375 a share, to $114.25, on the New York Stock Exchange.

"Strategically they're moving in the right direction," said Stephen Cohen, an analyst at Soundview Financial Group.

Last week, IBM said its first-quarter earnings would be well below expectations on Wall Street. That announcement had hammered IBM's stock and fueled a major selloff on Wall Street.

Unlike previous job cuts, which mainly affected U.S. operations, the latest reductions will be made worldwide. IBM said they should save about $200 million pretax this year, $600 million next year and $800 million a year thereafter.

In 1990, IBM earned $6.02 billion, or $10.51 a share, on sales of $69.02 billion.

IBM said the cuts would be accomplished through voluntary incentive programs, attrition and other actions, including the sale of its laser-printer, typewriter and office-products business. That $1.5 billion sale to the investment firm of Clayton & Dubilier, completed Wednesday, lowered IBM's worldwide work force of 383,000 by about 4,000. *(Reuters, AP)*

Big Funds Scrutinize U.S. Executive Pay

By Robert J. McCartney
Washington Post Service

NEW YORK — For years, critics have charged that big American corporations paid fat, multimillion-dollar salaries to their top executives even when the boss was doing a lousy job of running the company.

Now, for the first time, this practice is being challenged by the people who potentially have enough clout to have an impact: pension funds and other big shareholders that own stakes in the companies.

Although still in its early stages, their campaign has quickly gained support, particularly among pension funds managed from a somewhat populist perspective, such as those of retired state employees or labor unions.

Peg O'Hara, the director of the corporate governance service at the Investor Responsibility Research Center, an independent, nonprofit concern based in Washington, said there "is rising interest" among investors in putting pressure on companies where executives' compensation seems out of line with performance.

"People who work for wages at public funds and labor unions have the impression that all these people are overpaid, so it's a very obvious thing for them to want to deal with," she said.

The effort has sent ripples of concern through American boardrooms. With support from the Securities and Exchange Commission, corporate managements have always strongly opposed any attempts by outsiders to influence the sensitive issue of executive pay.

This year, however, the California Public Employees' Retirement System, called Calpers, already has successfully pressured two large companies, W. R. Grace & Co. and ITT Corp., to adopt bylaws designed to strengthen the independence of the board committees that set pay for top executives.

Calpers, one of the largest U.S. pension funds, targeted those companies because, it said, their chief executives had generous pay packages and mediocre performance records.

The fund said the cash compensation paid to Grace's top executive, J. Peter Grace, more than doubled during the 1980s to more than $1.5 million a year, while earnings were almost unchanged at about $3 a share before extraordinary items. The pension fund also questioned the payment to Mr. Grace of stock worth about $7 million from 1986 to 1989.

At ITT, Calpers said, ordinary earnings per share declined in five of the past nine years, but the total cash compensation of the chief executive, Rand V. Araskog, fell only once during the period. Calpers said Mr. Araskog's pay package of more than $6 million in 1989 was double what he deserved, taking into account ITT's size, performance and other factors.

W. R. Grace and ITT strongly disputed Calpers's allegations and said the fund's analysis was misleading. An ITT spokesman said Mr. Araskog had been rewarded in part because he had rescued the company after taking charge when it was in "very difficult shape" in 1979.

W. R. Grace said Calpers itself had conceded its performance data were erroneous.

Calpers general counsel, Richard H. Koppes, acknowledged that the fund had gone a bit overboard in saying that W. R. Grace was "one of our poorest-performing holdings." But Mr. Koppes said that Calpers still viewed W. R. Grace as "a poor performer" and that the fund thought Mr. Grace was overpaid.

W. R. Grace and ITT said they already followed the policy that Calpers wanted them to formalize, of ensuring that the directors who set the top executives' compensation cannot be influenced by the company. In the end, however, both corporations agreed to the rule changes rather than risk a potentially embarrassing fight over the issue at the annual meeting.

In another sign of the trend, the United Shareholders Association, an increasingly influential shareholder activist group, has chosen corporate performance and top executives' pay as two of the three criteria that it uses for selecting the companies it challenges at annual meetings. The third criterion is the quality of

See WATCHDOG, Page 9

CURRENCY RATES

Cross Rates

March 28

	$	£	D.M.	F.F.	Lira	D.Fl	B.F.	S.F.	Yen	C$	Peseta
Amsterdam	1.9275	3.349	1.1272	0.3326	0.1514 *	—	5.478 *	1.3252	1.383 *	1.663	1.813 *
Brussels	35.4725	61.2885	20.577	6.0735	2.7664 *	18.2925	—	24.38	0.252	30.54	32.22 *
Frankfurt	1.717	2.977	—	0.2957	0.1345 *	0.8871	4.859 *	1.175	1.225 *	1.479	1.615 *
London (a)	1.736	—	2.9708	10.085	2211.50	3.3464	61.275	2.5212	245.325	2.0099	183.96
Madrid						Closed					
Milan	1,279.25	2,213.50	744.05	219.45	—	660.43	36.165	874.43	9.10	1,101.80	12.032
New York (b)	—	1.7411 a	1.7035	5.7255	1,288.00	1.9263	35.053	1.4545	141.05	1.1578	105.60
Paris	5.816	10.0875	3.39	—	0.4557 *	3.0076	0.1640	3.985	4.145 *	5.013	5.4755 *
Tokyo	139.85	243.40	81.44	24.07	0.1099	72.46	3.9496	96.02	—	120.72	1.3366
Toronto	1.1580	2.0177	0.6805	0.2008	0.915 *	0.6038	3.302 *	0.7977	0.8207 *	—	1.096 *
Zurich	1.46	2.5343	0.841	0.2512	0.1145 *	0.7548	4.132 *	—	1.0300 *	1.2594	1.3741 *
1 ECU	1.2052	0.692	2.0580	6.9776	1,532.00	2.321	42.3893	1.7587	168.565	1.3906	127.579
1 SDR	1.3489	0.7726	2.3022	7.7884	1,714.01	2.5931	47.2219	1.9576	187.451	1.5491	N.A.

Closings in Amsterdam, London and Zurich, fixings in other centers. New York closing rates, and Toronto rates at 3 p.m.
*a: To buy one pound; b: To buy one dollar; *: Units of 100; N.Q.: not quoted; N.A.: not available.*

Other Dollar Values

Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $	Currency	Per $
Argen. austral	9620.0	Greek drac.	185.35	Mex. peso	2980.00	S. Afr. rand	2.7305
Austral. $	1.2928	Hong Kong $	7.7933	N. Zealand $	1.7065	Soviet ruble*	0.5830
Austr. schil.	12.02	Indian rupee	19.608	Norw. krone	6.652	Swed. krona	6.12
Brazil cruz.	238.65	Indo. rupiah	1915.00	Phil. peso	27.20	Taiwan $	27.37
Chinese yuan*	5.2271	Irish £	0.6431	Port. escudo	150.40	Thai baht	25.49
Danish krone	6.5585	Israeli shek.	2.2306	Saudi riyal	3.75	Turkish lira	3640.07
Egypt. pound	3.1816	Kuwaiti dinar	3.48	Sing. $	1.78	UAE dirham	3.6727
Fin. markka	4.0334	Malay. ring.	2.765	S. Kor. won	725.20	Venez. boliv.	54.20

*New York rates unless marked * (local rate.)*

Forward Rates

Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day
Pound Sterling	1.7280	1.7175	1.7099	Canadian dollar	1.1624	1.1655	1.1684
Deutsche mark	1.7191	1.7225	1.7278	Japanese yen	140.65	140.82	140.94
Swiss franc	1.4620	1.4651	1.4674				

Sources: NMB Bank (Amsterdam); Indosuez Bank (Brussels); Banca Commerciale Italiana (Milan); Banque Nationale de Paris (Paris); Bank of Tokyo (Tokyo); Royal Bank of Canada (Toronto); IMF (SDR); Gosbank (ruble). Other data from Reuters and AP.

INTEREST RATES

Eurocurrency Deposits

March 28

	Dollar	D-Mark	Swiss Franc	Sterling	French Franc	Yen	ECU	SDR
1 month	6 1/4-6 3/8	9-9 1/8	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	9 3/8-9 1/2	8
2 months	6 1/4-6 3/8	9 1/8-9 1/4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	7 7/8-8	9 3/8-9 1/2	8
3 months	6 1/4-6 3/8	[illegible]	8 1/2-8 5/8	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	8
6 months	6 3/8-6 1/2	9 1/4-9 3/8	[illegible]	11 7/8-12	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1 year	6 3/4-7	[illegible]	[illegible]	11 1/2-11 5/8	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	8

Sources: All Reuters except ECU: Lloyds Bank.
Rates applicable to interbank deposits of $1 million minimum (or equivalent).

Key Money Rates

March 28

	Close	Prev.
United States		
Discount rate	6.00	6.00
Prime rate	8 3/4/9	8 3/4/9
Federal funds	6.00	6.00
Com paper 30-179 days	6.20	6.20
3-month Treasury bills	5.74	5.77
6-month Treasury bills	5.78	5.79
1-year Treasury bills	5.89	5.92
30-year Treasury bond	8.24	8.25
3-month CD's	6.05	6.05
6-month CD's	6.10	6.10
Japan		
Discount rate	6.00	6.00
Call money	8 1/4	8 5/32
1-month interbank	7 3/4	7 29/32
3-month interbank	7 31/32	7 15/16
Germany		
Discount rate	6 1/2	6 1/2
Lombard rate	9.00	9.00
Call money	8.80	9.30
1-month interbank	8.95	8.95
3-month interbank	9.10	9.10
6-month interbank	9.20	9.20
Britain		
Bank base rate	12 1/2	12 1/2
Call money	12 3/4	13.00
3-month interbank	12 7/16	12 1/2
6-month interbank	11 15/16	11 15/16
France		
Intervention rate	9.00	9.00
Call money	9 3/4	9 13/16
1-month interbank	9 1/4	9 1/4
3-month interbank	9 3/16	9 1/4
6-month interbank	9 7/16	9 7/16

Sources: Reuters, Salomon Brothers, Bank of Tokyo, Commerzbank, Credit Lyonnais.

Asian Dollar Deposits

March 28

1 month	6 1/8 - 6 1/4
2 months	6 1/4 - 6 3/8
3 months	[illegible]
6 months	[illegible]
1 year	6 7/8 - 7

Source: Reuters.

U.S. Money Market Funds

March 28

Merrill Lynch Ready Assets
30-day average yield: 6.08
Telerate Interest Rate Index: 6.217

Source: Merrill Lynch, Telerate.

GOLD

March 28

	A.M.	P.M.	Ch'ge
Hong Kong	355.35	356.95	— 0.10
Luxembourg	354.10	—	— 2.90
Paris (12.5 kilo)	349.12	349.75	— 4.89
Zurich	354.50	353.15	+ 0.40
London	354.00	353.65	+ 1.60
New York	—	356.15	+ 0.90

Luxembourg, Paris and London official fixings; Hong Kong and Zurich opening and closing prices; New York spot market close. All prices in U.S. $ per ounce.
Source: Reuters.

A Wave of Debt Relief Builds

Reuters

PARIS — A landmark debt-reduction deal for Poland has opened a new chapter in the international debt crisis, which will probably lead to big write-offs for dozens of other countries, monetary officials and diplomats say.

Although the West insists that Poland is a special case and that it will grant the same terms only to Egypt, for Cairo's role in the Gulf war, other middle-income debtors are already pressing claims that will be hard to ignore.

"A dynamic process seems to be under way for middle-income countries, leading to more and more favorable debt relief," said Jean Baneth, director of the World Bank's Geneva office.

Mr. Baneth, who said he was expressing a personal opinion, recalled that a leading Hungarian politician had warned of social strains in his country if Poland got special favors.

"The sacrifices necessary to service debt are always painful," Mr. Baneth said at a conference. "But they're even more painful when you see your neighbors enjoying special treatment of their debts."

Poland's unprecedented deal, which slashes 50 percent off the $33.7 billion it owes the Paris Club of Western government creditors, was thrashed out in principle just two weeks ago and will not be ratified until next month.

But it has already created a worldwide stir.

Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao of the Philippines has urged Washington to help it get the same terms as part of a deal on the continued U.S. use of military bases.

Economy Minister Carlos Bolona of Peru said his country's extreme poverty, a cholera epidemic and guerrilla violence also justified special Paris Club terms.

"It'll be interesting to see how they fence the issue in," said a diplomat who tracks international debt.

French officials are adamant there will be no "contamination" from the pending Polish and Egyptian deals — at least not until Western taxpayers have got used to the idea of footing an extra bill at a time when domestic budgets are under severe strain in many countries.

But officials say the Polish pact could have swift ramifications for another group of debtors — the very poor.

Under the "Toronto terms" agreed upon in 1988, least-developed countries that are reforming their economies qualify for a 30 percent writedown of their official debts.

Because these countries in practice have been paying only part of their interest bill, Ms. Baneth said the relief is equivalent to just 20 percent in present-value terms.

"Compared to the Sudan, after all, Poland is a rich country," one diplomat said.

Zimbabwe's $700 Million

The World Bank said International aid donors pledged about $700 million this year to help Zimbabwe's five-year plan to reform its state-controlled economy, Reuters reported from Paris.

A statement released after a two-day meeting that ended Thursday said donors supported Zimbabwe's efforts to reduce state controls, stimulate growth and anchor the economy to market principles. A large proportion of the amount pledged would be in the form of balance-of-payments support.

Good progress was also made in securing provisional financial support for subsequent years, the statement said.

Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero of Zimbabwe said the financing gap over the five years was about $2.5 billion.

Mr. Chidzero said at a news conference that the five-year adjustment program as a whole would cost about $16 billion, with Zimbabwe providing some $12.5 billion, mainly through export earnings. It had received previous external promises of help totaling $1 billion.

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DIVIDEND NOTICE
At the Annual General Meeting held on March 26, 1991, it was decided to pay a dividend of US $ 1.27 (one dollar and twenty-seven cents) per share on/or after April 10, 1991 to shareholders of record on March 26, 1991 and to holders of bearer shares upon presentation of coupon nr. 22. The ex-dividend date is March 28, 1991.
Paying Agent: CHASE MANHATTAN BANK (LUXEMBOURG) S.A.
5, rue Plaetis
L-2338 LUXEMBOURG

HELIOPOLIS SHERATON HOTEL
INVITATION TO CONTRACTORS

Gulf-Egypt for Hotels and Tourism invites applications from interested building contractors to prequalify to tender for the reconstruction, repairs and upgrading of Heliopolis Sheraton Hotel, Cairo, Egypt, damaged by fire. The works comprise reconstruction, repairs and renovation of fire damaged areas of about 25000 m2 and general upgrading of other areas of the hotel.

Only applications from contractors having previous experience dealing with rehabilitation and construction of steel structures and five star hotel standard finishes will be considered for prequalification.

Prequalification documents may be obtained by personal application or by mail from:
Gulf-Egypt for Hotel and Tourism
Orouba Street, Heliopolis, Cairo, Egypt
P.O.BOX: 2414 Horreya, Heliopolis
Tel. : 2918170 - 2915153 - 2919549
Tlx. : 92455 MEHEH UN - 93892 GEHTM UN
Fax. : 2915396
Cable : Gulf - Misr - Cairo

Completed applications should be submitted by Wednesday 24th. April, 1991.

The company reserves the right to refuse any prequalification without giving any reason.

DIARY

Prices End Mixed Before Holidays

United Press International

NEW YORK — Prices on the New York Stock Exchange closed narrowly mixed Thursday in dull trading as many investors got an early start on the Easter-Passover weekend, since the market will be closed Friday.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which rose 2.72 points Wednesday, fell 3.71 to 2,913.86.

Among broader market gauges, the NYSE composite index lost 0.02 to 205.82 and the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index fell 0.13 to 375.22. The price of an average share was unchanged.

Advances led declines by almost a 5-4 ratio. Volume totaled 150.75 million shares, well down from 201.83 million traded Wednesday.

Many investors were gone from Wall Street by midday, getting a head start on the holiday weekend. Prices drifted aimlessly, with no news to influence trading.

The one piece of significant news concerned International Business Machines Corp., which said it would cut its global work force by approximately 14,000 in 1991.

IBM closed up 1 to 113⅞. Analysts said the market was encouraged by IBM's recognition of its problems and the steps it was taking to deal with them.

Other than that, though, "today was as directionless as any day we've had recently," said Sid Dorr, vice president of institutional trading at Charles Schwab & Co. in San Francisco.

Thursday was the last day of the quarter for trading purposes, but that didn't do too much to wake the market up, said James Andrews, first vice president in charge of institutional trading at Janney Montgomery Scott Inc. in Philadelphia.

"There was just not too much going on," he said. "This was the last day of the month for portfolio managers, but they did everything they were going to do in the early part of week."

Georgia Gulf was the most active issue, up ¾ to 16½ on vague takeover rumors. Navistar followed, unchanged at 3⅞. Beverly Enterprises was third, up ¼ to 11⅛.

Among the other blue chips, AT&T was down ½ to 34¼. The company, pressing a $6 billion, $90-a-share hostile takeover of NCR, apparently unseated four incumbent NCR directors, including Charles E. Exley Jr., the chairman, at the company's annual meeting Thursday. NCR was up 2 to 99⅝.

N.Y. Stocks

Dollar Closes Mixed In Calm U.S. Trading

Reuters

NEW YORK — The dollar closed mostly lower in quiet trading Thursday, rising against the yen but falling against the Deutsche mark, as traders unwound long yen/short mark positions ahead of the Easter holiday weekend.

Markets will be closed in Europe for the Good Friday holiday. The New York market will be open, but banks said they will deploy only skeletal staffs. Some of the day's yen selling was also due to the end of the Japanese fiscal year on March 31, traders said.

The dollar ended at 1.7035 DM, down slightly from 1.7070 DM at Wednesday's close, but rose to 141.05 yen from 139.50.

The U.S. currency also ended at 1.4545 Swiss francs, compared with 1.4562 francs, and at 5.7755 French francs, compared with 5.7955.

The pound slid to $1.7411 from $1.7450.

"The mark-yen move was to be expected, given the fiscal-year end in Japan," said Walter Simon, vice president of Bank Julius Baer. "Other than that, it was position-squaring. So we saw erratic moves for which there was no explanation."

Trading was thin enough so that individual deals pushed the market further than would normally be the case, he said.

The Soviet Union's continuing political turmoil helped buoy the dollar against the mark Thursday, traders said.

After the Bank of Japan sold dollars for yen in Tokyo, central banks were absent from the market Thursday, traders said.

"The central banks have gotten smarter on when to intervene," Mr. Simon said.

Earlier in London, the dollar was slightly higher after trading in a narrow range. The dollar was quoted at 1.7105 DM, up from Wednesday's close of 1.7073.

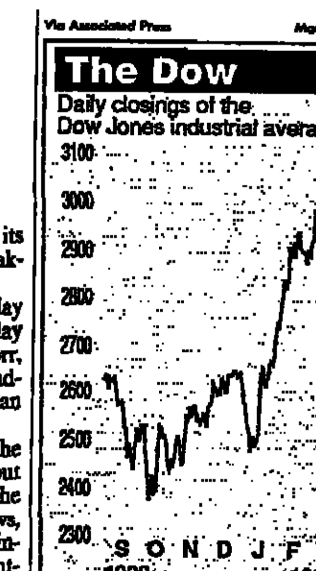
In Frankfurt, the mark — weakened by a series of comments from Germany's top monetary officials — ended little changed on the dollar in thin trading after slipping to its lowest levels in over a year at the fix.

Comments from Finance Minister Theo Waigel and Bundesbank President Karl Otto Pöhl continued to depress the currency in markets already jittery about deteriorating economic conditions in eastern Germany and the accompanying political turmoil in Bonn.

The dollar closed in Frankfurt at 1.7080 DM, after Wednesday's close at 1.7105. But earlier, the U.S. currency hit 1.7170 DM at the Frankfurt fixing, its highest level since March 13, 1990.

Foreign Exchange

Via Associated Press March 28



IHT

NYSE Most Actives

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
RJR Nb n	44202	12⅛	11⅞	11⅞	— ½
GaGulf	25534	16¾	15⅞	16½	+ ¾
Navistr	24797	4	3⅞	3⅞	
Bevrly	19544	11¼	10⅞	11⅛	+ ¼
Upjohn	16709	48⅛	47⅛	47⅜	+ ½
AT&T	16043	34⅜	33⅞	34¼	— ½
IBM	16185	114⅛	112⅞	114	+1⅛
AMD	15411	10⅜	10	10½	
Wendys	14940	11	10⅜	10⅝	+ ⅛
NCR	14808	100	98⅝	99⅝	+1⅜
AmExp	14063	29⅜	28⅞	28⅞	—1⅛
CmpAsc	12999	9⅛	8½	8⅝	+ ⅛
TranEx	12885	3⅛	1⅞	2	—1⅜
PhilMr	12665	68⅝	67⅝	68	— ⅜
USX	12440	32	30⅞	31	—1

AMEX Most Actives

	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Lionel	8828	3⅛	2¾	2⅞	— ¼
CalEng	6167	14	13⅝	13⅞	+ ⅛
CornCr	3895	20⅛	19⅝	20	+ ¼
Amdhl	3727	15⅞	15¼	15⅝	+ ⅜
Hilhav	3500	3	2⅞	3	
Epitope n	2748	23⅞	23¼	23½	+ ½
UnoRst s	2521	13⅛	12⅝	12⅝	— ½
PoliCo s	2407	34½	34⅛	34¼	+ ⅛
ENSCO	2326	2⅝	2½	2⅝	
A-aif2 sc	2204	7⅛	6⅝	6⅝	— ¼
IntMur n	2141	7⅛	6⅝	6⅝	— ½
vlCntAr	2136	3½	3⅜	3½	
WangB	2126	4½	4⅜	4⅜	
Alza	2048	65⅝	63⅞	65⅝	+2⅛
DkNk wt	1965	16	15⅝	16	+ ⅜

NYSE Diary

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	851	879
Declined	684	708
Unchanged	506	488
Total Issues	2041	2075
New Highs	92	146
New Lows	2	4

Amex Diary

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	372	320
Declined	225	274
Unchanged	239	220
Total Issues	836	814
New Highs	37	42
New Lows	4	4

NASDAQ Diary

	Close	Prev.
Advanced	1,156	1,192
Declined	823	772
Unchanged	n.a.	2,155
Total Issues	n.a.	4,119

Dow Jones Averages

	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Indus	2923.76	2942.08	2893.32	2913.86	— 3.71
Trans	1128.26	1127.29	1103.14	1109.49	— 8.46
Util	216.61	218.06	215.79	217.18	+ 0.63
Comp	1039.39	1045.98	1028.18	1034.97	— 2.54

Standard & Poor's Indexes

	High	Low	Close	Ch'ge
Industrials	446.11	443.22	444.21	— 0.42
Transp.	268.09	265.10	265.61	— 1.39
Utilities	145.17	143.99	144.82	+ 0.83
Finance	29.62	29.40	29.45	— 0.07
SP 500	376.40	374.40	375.22	— 0.13
SP 100	357.33	354.85	355.43	— 0.57

NYSE Indexes

	High	Low	Close	Ch'ge
Composite	205.72	205.24	205.30	— 0.02
Industrials	257.40	256.82	256.82	— 0.21
Transp.	164.99	164.05	164.05	— 0.40
Utilities	93.66	93.32	93.53	+ 0.37
Finance	149.14	148.94	148.94	+ 0.02

NASDAQ Indexes

	High	Low	Close	Ch'ge
Composite	483.48	481.71	482.30	— 0.07
Industrials	546.71	544.22	545.82	— 0.32
Finance	437.57	436.10	437.31	+ 0.88
Insurance	549.40	545.33	548.98	+ 3.60
Utilities	369.01	502.59	363.91	— 4.21
Banks	310.91	308.37	310.15	+ 0.78
Transp.	311.21	302.45	309.21	+ 5.95

AMEX Stock Index

High	Low	Close	Ch'ge
359.21	357.62	359.20	+1.52

Dow Jones Bond Averages

	Close	Ch'ge
20 Bonds	93.40	+0.23
10 Utilities	95.40	+0.04
10 Industrials	91.81	+0.32

Market Sales

NYSE 4 p.m. volume	150,750,000
NYSE prev. cons. close	242,514,300
Amex 4 p.m. volume	13,430,000
Amex prev. cons. close	15,218,000
NASDAQ 4 p.m. volume	184,259,900
NASDAQ prev. 4 p.m. volume	194,384,200
NYSE volume up	66,215,460
NYSE volume down	59,994,600
Amex volume up	6,361,430
Amex volume down	3,605,800
NASDAQ volume up	98,685,240
NASDAQ volume down	57,698,000

S&P 100 Index Options

March 28

Calls: total vol. 68,807; total open int. 338,824
Puts: total vol. 64,657; total open int. 378,673

Calls: total vol. 25; total open int. 13,252
Puts: total vol. 174; total open int. 30,507

Source: CBOE.

Currency Options

March 28

PHILADELPHIA EXCHANGE

Total call vol. 7,576; Call open int. 449,469
Total put vol. 17,159; Put open int. 297,898
r—Not traded. s—No option offered.
Last is premium (purchase price).

Dividends

Company	Per	Amt	Pay	Rec
INCREASED				
MocNeal-Schwndlr	Q	.12	6-5	5-24
STOCK				
Cupertino Natl Bcp		5PC	5-3	4-30
Fst Natl Bk Cp Mi		5PC	5-15	4-17
USUAL				
Baker (J) Inc	Q	.01½	5-3	4-17
Friedman Indus		.03	5-17	4-12
GenCorp Inc	Q	.15	5-31	5-1
Glatfelter (PH) Co	Q	.30	5-1	4-12
Horizon Bank	Q	.07½	4-30	4-11
Jefferson Bkshrs	Q	.25	4-30	4-5
Nrthrn States Pwr	Q	.58	4-20	4-8
Raytheon Co	Q	.60	4-30	4-8
Summcorp	Q	.18	5-1	4-15
TCA Cable TV	Q	.07	4-23	4-9
Taleim Corp	Q	.14	5-31	5-10
Valley Capital	Q	.30	4-12	4-8

a-annual; m-monthly; q-quarterly; s-semi-annual

Source: UPI.

N.Y.S.E. Odd-Lot Trading

	Buy	Sales	Short*
March 27	702,029	737,330	7,995
March 26	676,762	697,793	37,381
March 25	611,881	604,315	10,540
March 22	584,760	513,424	2,817
March 21	701,096	725,233	15,876

*Included in the sales figures.

European Futures

Sources: Matif, Int'l Petroleum Exchange, Reuters.

London Metals

Spot Commodities

Commodity	Today	Prev.
Aluminum, lb	0.647	0.641
Coffee, lb	0.825	0.825
Copper electrolytic, lb	1.1875	1.1875
Iron FOB, ton	213.00	213.00
Lead, lb	0.33	0.33
Silver, troy oz	3.85	3.815
Steel (billets), ton	473.00	473.00
Steel (scrap), ton	106.00	106.00
Tin, lb	3.5777	3.59
Zinc, lb	0.60	0.60

PERGAMON: *Elsevier Buying*

(Continued from first finance page)

clays de Zoete Wedd in Amsterdam.

Elsevier said the deal would limit its growth in earnings per share in 1991 to around 10 percent. "But that growth will increase to the usual percentages thereafter," it said.

Last year, Elsevier's operating profit after tax rose roughly 16 percent to 5.32 guilders ($2.76) a share.

Elsevier's shares rose 1.50 guilders to 82.20 on the Amsterdam stock exchange.

Mr. Maxwell proposed a merger with Elsevier in August 1987 and, despite renouncing these ambitions soon afterwards, his company still retains a stake in the Dutch group of nearly 9 percent.

Elsevier said it would fund the acquisition with its existing cash resources and banking facilities. The company last year sold a 33 percent stake in the rival Dutch publisher Wolters Kluwer NV. Although the price was not disclosed, the move considerably boosted Elsevier's cash reserves.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Agence France Presse March 28

Amsterdam

	Close	Prev.
ABN Amro Hld	37	36.80
ACF Holding	45	45.80
Aegon	128.90	126.80
Ahold	82.10	80.40
Akzo	107.50	108.30
AMEV	58.50	58
A'Dam Rubber	4.15	4.10
Bols	192.50	191.80
Buhrmann Tett	63.50	63
Center Parcs	25.25	24.25
CSM	81.30	81.60
DAF	23.30	23.50
DSM	113.60	113.40
Elsevier	82.20	80.70
Fokker	34	33.70
Gist-Brocades	35.50	35.40
Heineken	152	152.40
Hoogovens	56.10	57
Hunter Douglas	81.70	79.80
IHC Caland	32	32.50
Inter Mueller	78.30	78.20
KLM	26.40	26.40
KNP	52.30	52.40
Nat Neder	60.30	60.20
Nedlloyd	56.50	56
NMB Postbank	48.10	48.90
Oce Grinten	53.50	52.80
Pakhoed	194	195
Philips	28	28.10
Robeco	101.80	100.80
Rodamco	55.10	55.30
Rolinco	99	97.80
Rorento	64.80	64.20
Royal Dutch	150	150.50
Unilever	142.40	142
Van Ommeren	43.70	44.10
VMF Stork	52.80	52.70
VNU	98	97.30
Wessanen	79.50	79.20
Wolters/Kluwer	52.50	52

CBS Gen'l Trend Index : 96.20
Previous : 96.10

Markets Closed

Stock markets in Helsinki, Madrid and Sao Paulo were closed Thursday for holidays.

For investment information
read THE MONEY REPORT
every Saturday in the IHT

U.S. / AT THE CLOSE

Spending Jumped 0.6% in February

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumer spending, bolstered by a modest rise in incomes, jumped by 0.6 percent in February, the biggest gain in five months, the government reported Thursday.

The Commerce Department said the increase in spending, which reflected an upturn in auto purchases, followed a 0.6 percent drop in January and a 0.1 percent December gain. The February gain was the largest since a 0.8 percent rise in September.

In another report Thursday, the Labor Department said the number of new claims for unemployment benefits remained above the half-million mark for a second consecutive week in March, something that had not happened in more than eight years. The department said 510,000 people had filed initial claims for state unemployment insurance in the week ending March 16, after 519,000 in the previous week.

National Intergroup Reorganizes

PITTSBURGH (AP) — National Intergroup Inc. announced on Thursday sweeping changes in its leadership and strategy, including plans to keep its FoxMeyer Drug Co. and consider spinning off its Ben Franklin Stores unit.

National's board of directors said in August it would sell FoxMeyer, the third-largest U.S. drug distributor, but the holding company's new leadership said it would instead make the drug unit its core operating subsidiary.

As part of the change, National Intergroup's administrative and corporate officers will be moved and merged into FoxMeyer's headquarters in Carrollton, Texas. The new co-chairmen, Abbey J. Butler and Melvyn J. Estrin, succeed Buck Mickel, who was named chairman in August.

Plastic Recycling Drive Opens in U.S.

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The plastics industry launched a major campaign Thursday to get American consumers involved in recycling programs that would handle 25 percent of all plastic bottles and containers by 1995.

The industry's "blueprint for plastics recycling" focuses heavily on helping municipalities set up garbage-separation and collection systems that would enable more people to participate in recycling. It also commits plastic producers to building more facilities for reprocessing items, and calls for consumer-goods companies to use more recycled plastic in products like soda bottles, detergent containers and margarine tubs.

The goal, industry officials said, is to create by 1995 the capacity to recycle 18 billion plastic containers, about 25 percent of the total.

DEAL: *Swap Is Blow to McDonnell*

(Continued from page 1)

contending that the price tag of the McDonnell Douglas project rose to over $6.2 billion last year.

"They got a little sticker-shock," a high-ranking American official said Wednesday, as rumors of the decision began to circulate in Seoul. "And after the Gulf war, I think they began to ask whether they really needed the F-18."

Mr. Lee said the deal with General Dynamics would involve a "significant transfer of technology," something South Korean industry had insisted upon. But details were kept vague, perhaps because Korean officials are anxious to avoid the kind of fight in Congress that nearly killed Japan's FSX program.

Under the provisions of the old contract with McDonnell, the St. Louis-based company was supposed to provide 12 U.S.-built F-18s to Korea. Thirty-six more were to be built in South Korea out of kits, largely parts imported from the United States. The remaining 72 planes were to be built in South Korea.

It was unclear whether the deal with General Dynamics would be similarly structured. But in recent months Samsung officials had begun to show some nervousness about the project, chiefly because Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, the giant Japanese company that is heading the FSX project, has complained that the work yields little profit and big political headaches.

U.S. FUTURES

Via Associated Press March 28

Commodity Indexes

	Close	Previous
Moody's	1,050.40 f	1,045.30 f
Reuters	1,722.30	1,727.30
D.J. Futures	128.34	127.90
Com. Research	218.47	217.34

Moody's : base 100 : Dec. 31, 1931.
p - preliminary; f - final
Reuters : base 100 : Sep. 18, 1931.
Dow Jones : base 100 : Dec. 31, 1974.

Market Guide

CBT:	Chicago Board of Trade
CME:	Chicago Mercantile Exchange
IMM:	International Monetary Market Of Chicago Mercantile Exchange
NYCSCE:	New York Cocoa, Sugar, Coffee Exchange
NYCE:	New York Cotton Exchange
COMEX:	Commodity Exchange, New York
NYME:	New York Mercantile Exchange
KCBT:	Kansas City Board of Trade
NYFE:	New York Futures Exchange

East Bolsters Siemens Orders

Company's Sales in Early Months of Year Climbed 7.7%

Reuters

MUNICH — Siemens AG, Western Europe's largest electronics concern, said Thursday that its expansion into eastern Germany had helped bolster its order books, and the company reported 7.7 percent growth in sales for the first part of its financial year.

The management board chairman, Karlheinz Kaske, told the annual shareholders' meeting that incoming orders during the first five months of the year, from October to end-February, rose 19 percent. He did not give actual figures.

Mr. Kaske also said sales in the first five months rose to 26.5 billion Deutsche marks ($15.7 billion) from 24.6 billion DM.

For the full financial year, Mr. Kaske said he expects incoming orders of 77 billion DM, up from 67.7 billion DM last year, and a rise in sales to around 72 billion DM from 63.2 billion DM.

Group net profit for the year, which ends Sept. 30, is expected to be around last year's level of 1.67 billion DM.

So far, Siemens has seen considerable stimulus to its overall business from eastern Germany. Mr. Kaske said incoming orders from this area in the first five months were already 1.2 billion DM.

■ Potential in Germany

Ferdinand Protzman of The New York Times reported earlier from Bonn:

Siemens has been expanding aggressively into international markets for three years.

Yet, when industry experts discuss why the Munich-based company's stock has been gaining favor as a long-term investment, they emphasize the profit potential in the united Germany.

"It's a bit ironic that after Siemens finally committed to internationalization after years of inaction, unity came along and shifted the focus back to Germany," said Bill Coleman, an electronics analyst for James Capel & Co. in London. "But in the long term, eastern Germany will add 20 percent to their business."

Industry analysts like Siemens's chances in eastern Germany, despite the current economic crisis there. With 16 million electronics-hungry consumers and a desperate need for a major rebuilding, the region seems a perfect match for Siemens's product line, which ranges from electric kettles to nuclear power plants.

"We recommend buying Siemens," said Michael Broeker, an analyst with Bank Julius Baer AG in Frankfurt. "Profits may drop slightly in their 1991 financial year. But they are very well-positioned to profit in eastern Germany."

In western Germany, Mr. Broeker explained, Siemens completely dominates some market sectors, including telecommunications, where its market share is 40 percent to 50 percent.

"I think they will get about the same share of the eastern German market," he said. "That means Siemens will get a large part of the $4.3 billion the German Federal Post Office is going to invest there over the next few years.

"The same goes for the power generation, medical technology and consumer-electronics sectors. The German government will invest billions of dollars in those areas. By 1993 or 1994, I think Siemens's earnings will be showing big gains because of eastern Germany."

Many German companies are eager to sell their products in eastern Germany, but not to invest there. Siemens, however, has been praised by the German government for investing more than $625 million in 20 projects in eastern Germany and has more than 15,000 employees in the region.

Siemens officials say the work force will expand to about 25,000 to 30,000 within a few years, while annual sales there rise to $3 billion. They expect to be making a profit in eastern Germany within two years. In the current fiscal year, Siemens projects eastern German sales of $2.04 billion and new orders of about $2.5 billion.

Esso of France Sells Office for $290 Million

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — Esso SAF, the French unit of the American oil giant Exxon Corp., said Thursday it had agreed to sell its headquarters in the modern La Défense complex outside Paris for a total of 1.69 billion francs ($293 million).

Esso said the buyers were a consortium of three real estate developers — Générale Continentale, Investissements-Interconstruction and Kaufman & Broad — and eight French financial institutions. They will pay a further 1.26 billion francs to the state authority that manages La Défense for development costs of the complex area.

The Esso headquarters was built in 1964 and offers 30,000 square meters (323,000 square feet) of space on a parcel of land of 19,215 square meters. The buyers will demolish it and build a new 190,000 square-meter development comprising offices, shops and a cultural center.

Esso plans to move into new offices, still under construction in the western suburb of Rueil-Malmaison, in the autumn of 1992. *(AFP, Reuters)*

Western Germany Posts Fall in Prices

Reuters

WIESBADEN, Germany — Consumer prices fell in western Germany in March for the first time since November, but economists said Thursday that the surging dollar and tax increases scheduled for July mean the decline is unlikely to continue.

The Federal Statistics Office reported that the cost of living in western Germany fell a provisional 0.1 percent in the month to mid-March. Prices rose 2.5 percent in the year to March, the lowest annual rate since the 2.4 percent reported in July.

In February, the cost of living rose 0.3 percent for an annual rise of 2.7 percent.

Economists said that the rise in the March annual rate was lower than expected, but that higher taxes and the Deutsche mark's plunge of almost 30 pfennig against the dollar since early February were continuing to cloud western Germany's overall inflation outlook.

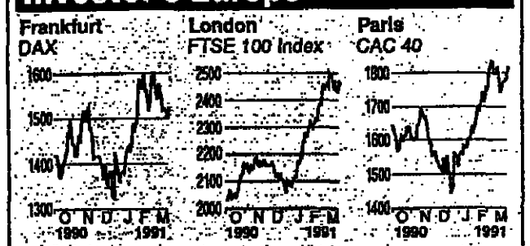
In the full calendar year, inflation in western Germany will rise about 3.3 percent, compared with 2.7 percent in 1990, said Harald Jörg of Dresdner Bank AG's forecasting unit.

A leading German banker said inflation could be even worse if the dollar remains at its current high levels, since import prices would soar as a result. In a radio interview, Helmut Geiger, the head of Germany's savings banks association, said the annual inflation rate could top 4 percent.

West German import prices fell 1.2 percent in February, compared with January, and were unchanged from February 1990, the statistics office said earlier this week.

Economists said that import prices would show a sharp rise starting in March and that raw-materials prices would also rise in line with the dollar, putting additional pressure on consumer prices.

Investor's Europe



Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Amsterdam	CBS Trend	96.20	96.10	+0.10
Brussels	Stock Index	5799.66	5791.83	+0.14
Frankfurt	DAX	1522.80	1508.80	+0.93
Frankfurt	FAZ	646.83	645.45	+0.21
Helsinki	HEX	Closed	1157.70	-
London	Financial Times 30	1953.90	1965.90	-0.61
London	FTSE 100	2456.50	2464.60	-0.33
Madrid	General Index	Closed	284.29	-
Milan	MIB	1132.00	1123.00	+0.80
Paris	CAC 40	1816.36	1797.06	+1.07
Stockholm	Affarsvarlden	1065.80	1064.30	+0.14
Vienna	Stock Index	562.28	558.87	+0.61
Zurich	SBS	609.90	609.60	+0.05

Sources: Reuters, AFP International Herald Tribune

Paribas Net Dropped 26% in 1990

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — Compagnie Financière de Paribas reported on Thursday that profit fell by more than one quarter last year, and it warned that 1991 would be equally hard.

The holding company said net attributable profit fell 26.3 percent, to 2.54 billion francs ($440.5 million) in 1990, from 3.45 billion francs in 1989.

"1991 will obviously not be an easy year," Chairman André Levy-Lang said. He said the world's economic environment would be crucial to the current year's results, but gave no profit forecast.

The company said the drop in profit was largely due to an increase in new banking provisions, which rose to 4.95 billion francs in 1990 from 3.56 billion francs in 1989.

The bulk of the increase reflected specific provisions made necessary by the economic climate in the main countries where Paribas has its banking operations, notably Britain, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United States and France.

Banque Paribas, the banking subsidiary of Compagnie Financière, reported separately Thursday that its net profit sank 54.3 percent in 1990, to 631 million francs.

The bank's total assets rose to 568 billion francs from 476 billion, and new banking provisions increased to 1.99 billion from 1.34 billion.

Paribas, recalling that it took out an insurance policy in 1990 so it would not have to set aside more reserves to cover its riskiest Third World loans, said it has 6.1 billion francs of loans that are not covered by the policy and that are 64 percent reserved.

The holding company will propose to shareholders at the annual general meeting in May a dividend unchanged at 12 francs a share.

Estimated assets per share slipped to 686 francs from 790 in the year before. *(Reuters, AFP)*

Royale Belge Stake for UAP

Reuters

BRUSSELS — Groupe Bruxelles Lambert SA said Thursday that it was selling half its indirect holding in the insurer Groupe Royale Belge to Union des Assurances de Paris in a deal valued at 11.9 billion Belgian francs ($340 million).

The deal values Royale Belge at 5,950 francs a share. Royale Belge closed at 4,985 francs on Thursday.

The insurance company also said that its 1990 consolidated net profit fell 20 percent.

WATCHDOG: *Big U.S. Pension Funds Are Scrutinizing Executive Pay*

(Continued from first finance page)

shareholders' rights, especially whether management has sought to "entrench" itself in power with anti-takeover devices.

"Compensation has always been an issue for shareholders, but it is increasingly so," said Ralph V. Whitworth, president of the association. "The issue with us is not so much what managers get paid, but that the pay is tied to performance."

The association, founded in 1986 by the corporate raider T. Boone Pickens, has 64,000 members. It seeks to pressure managements to be more responsive to shareholders' concerns and, with Calpers, is among the most active investor groups currently challenging managements at annual meetings through proxy fights.

It is difficult for the association, or any investor, to directly challenge executives' pay through a proxy fight. That's because longstanding SEC rules say that it is part of the ordinary business of management and the board to set compensation.

But the association has managed to get around this roadblock by using the compensation issue as a way of deciding which companies should be challenged in proxy fights over other issues. These typically are over shareholders' efforts to win a secret ballot or to force companies to drop anti-takeover defenses.

Because managements normally want to avoid proxy fights over any issue, companies frequently prefer to reach a compromise with the dissidents to stave off a fight. The United Shareholders Association has cut seven deals this year, including one with W. R. Grace, which agreed to adopt confidential voting by shareholders.

"I'm confident we could have won, but I just don't want to make the lawyers any richer" by going through with a proxy fight, said J. P. Bolduc, the president of W. R. Grace.

In addition, a landmark SEC decision last year paved the way for shareholders to use proxy fights for the first time to challenge executives' so-called golden parachutes. These are hefty severance packages promised to top corporate officers in the event that a company is taken over and they lose their jobs.

Shareholders resent golden parachutes in part because they seem to reward executives regardless of whether they've done a good job.

Because of the SEC's ruling, the golden-parachute issue seems likely to be the corporate-governance topic that will attract the most new interest this year. According to the Investor Responsibility Research Center, which keeps track of proxy fights, the number of confrontations over golden parachutes will jump to 22 this year from 12 last year.

The individual who perhaps has played the biggest role in drawing attention to the issue has been Graef S. Crystal, who worked for 18 years as a top New York consultant on executive compensation before moving five years ago to be a professor at the Haas School of Business at the University of California at Berkeley.

Mr. Crystal has developed a computer model that seeks to measure executive pay relative to company performance. Calpers and the United Shareholders Association have used his research in selecting companies to pressure, and he has prepared an annual survey published in Fortune magazine that measures relative pay and performance at 200 major U.S. companies.

Like many other experts in the field, Mr. Crystal says the core of the problem is that corporate boards are too cozy with the managers they are supposed to supervise.

"Most of these boards are asleep at the switch. They do not represent the shareholders' interest," Mr. Crystal said.

As a result, he said, the big institutional investors and other shareholders that elect the directors are in a good position to have an impact on executive pay.

"I think the institutions are discovering that executive compensation is the soft underbelly of corporate governance," he said.

Volkswagen Finalizes Its Deal With Skoda

Reuters

WOLFSBURG, Germany — Volkswagen AG said Thursday that it had signed a deal with the Czechoslovak government that involves VW acquiring an initial stake of 31 percent in a new company that will own all assets of the carmaker Skoda Automobilovy Koncern.

By 1995, VW would gradually increase its stake in Skoda to 70 percent.

VW expects to spend a total of 1.4 billion Deutsche marks ($829.7 million) on the Skoda deal between 1991 and 1995.

Volkswagen said the agreement was signed in Skoda's hometown of Mlada Boleslav by VW's management board chairman, Carl Hahn, Czech Industry Minister Jan Vrba and Skoda General Manager Petr Dedek.

The agreement will shortly be presented to the Czech government and VW's supervisory board for final approval, the company added.

The new Skoda company will be formed on April 15.

VW said it would eventually raise its stake in the new company to 70 percent at a cost of 1.4 billion DM. The company said it planned to invest a total of 9 billion DM in Skoda by the year 2000.

The first step of this program provides for Skoda to gradually increase its production from 200,000 cars in 1992 to 400,000 units.

Simultaneously, Skoda and VW will develop new car models and build up a supplier industry in Czechoslovakia.

VW said Skoda will operate as an independent brand alongside its VW, Audi AG and SEAT SA cars.

Carlton Takes 3% Stake In U.S. Film Producer

Reuters

LONDON — Carlton Communications PLC of Britain said Thursday that it had taken a 3 percent stake in the U.S. independent film producer Carolco Pictures Inc. for $14 million.

Carlton also said its U.S. unit, Technicolor Inc., had signed a seven-year agreement to handle all Carolco's film-processing requirements for film and television production. Carolco's recent films include some of the "Rambo" series, "Total Recall" and "The Doors."

NASDAQ

Thursday's Prices

NASDAQ prices as of 4 p.m. New York time. This list compiled by the AP, consists of the 1,000 most traded securities in terms of dollar value. It is updated twice a year.

هكذا من الأصل

NYSE

Thursday's Closing

Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. *Via The Associated Press*

12 Month High	Low	Stock	Div	Yld	PE	Sls 100s	High	Low	4 P.M.	Chg
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

(Continued on next page)

NYSE Highs-Lows

NEW HIGHS 92

AlaP 828pf	Albertsons s	ALLTEL pf	AmIntGr s
Angelica	Anheusr	Avon Prod	BancTexas
BardCR	BearStearns	BectonDick	BroadInc
BklynUGs pf	CIPSCO	CUC Int s	Carlisle
Cascde NGs	CedarFair	CenturaBk n	Chilis s
Christiana	Comput Sci	ConAgra	Conseco
CountryMtg	EmraMex n	EmpDist El	FabriCtr s
Foysinc	FtFnclMat	FredHaly	GnMotrE pr
GoGulf	Gotschalk	GreyhndD	HQ Hlth
HlthRehab	HlthCrPr	HarmnHlth	HouseFab
IMC Fert	Imcera	INCO Ltd	IntMultHlds
IntpubGp	Kellogg	KentElec	Keycorp
Kroger	LeslieFay	LincNlFd	MarshMcl
MidwRsc n	MartonIntl	MuellerInd n	NalcoCh
NewPlanRlt	NiMo 772pf	OEA s	OakwdHm s
OldRepInt	Orange Rk	OrionCa pf	PrecCast
Primark	vlPSNH 386p	vlPSNH 345p	QuickRelly
RaymdJames	ReadrDig	RockCentr	Rollins
RayceValu	SchwbCh	ServMerch	StdFdBk
SterlSoft	StrideRte	TCF Fin	Texfi pf
Thiokol n	TrnsatlHld n	UNUM	UtdDomIn
Unitrode	UnivFd	Upjohn	ValeroEnr
VarianAsc	Vivra s	WellsF adl p	WiscEnor

NEW LOWS 2

IntndSH pfG TranscoExp

AMEX Highs-Lows

NEW HIGHS 37

AmMaize A	AmMaize B	AmTr-mob prm	Amwestins
BergstrmCap	ConcrdFab	ConcrdFabB	DonnelyCp
Epitope n	ForestLab s	Galnsco	GenovDrg
HealthCre	ICH pf	IncstarCp	Initatur
Kenwin Sh	MovTube n	Newcor	PallCp s
ParkPar n	PortaSys	PubStor 8 n	PubStor 9 n
PubStor 10 n	PubStor 11 n	PubStor 12 n	RelianEl plA
ResoTech	RiserFood	SDle 450pf	SierraHlth
SoapWare s	Telas n	Teleflex	WRIT
WIRET			

NEW LOWS 4

DickenMnB g EZ Serv n JamesMdsn KaufmnHW

For investment information
read THE MONEY REPORT
every Saturday in the IHT

AMEX

Thursday's Closing

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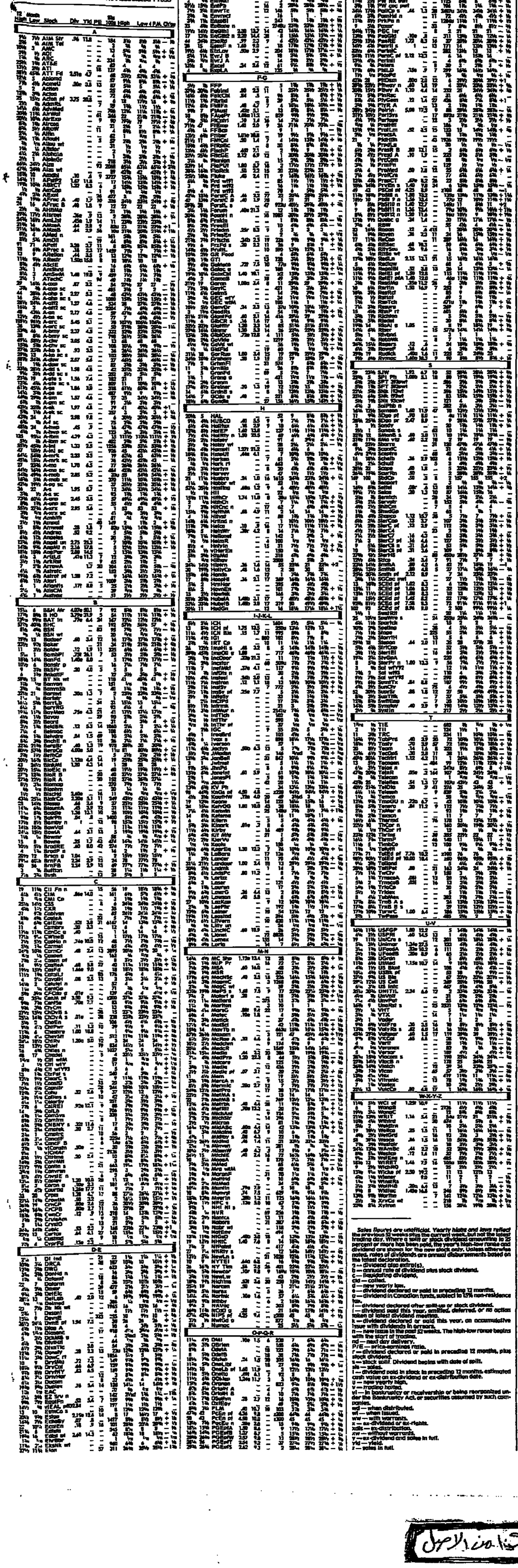
AMEX

Thursday's Closing

Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. *Via The Associated Press*



NYSE

Thursday's Closing

Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. *Via The Associated Press*

(Continued)

Sales figures are unofficial. Yearly highs and lows reflect the previous 52 weeks plus the current week, but not the latest trading day. Where a split or stock dividend amounting to 25 percent or more has been paid, the year's high-low range and dividend are shown for the new stock only. Unless otherwise noted, rates of dividends are annual disbursements based on the latest declaration.

a — dividend also extra(s).
b — annual rate of dividend plus stock dividend.
c — liquidating dividend.
cld — called.
e — new yearly low.
e — dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months.
f — dividend in Canadian funds, subject to 15% non-residence tax.
i — dividend declared after split-up or stock dividend.
j — dividend paid this year, omitted, deferred, or no action taken at latest dividend meeting.
k — dividend declared or paid this year, an accumulative issue with dividends in arrears.
n — new issue in the past 52 weeks. The high-low range begins with the start of trading.
nd — next day delivery.
P/E — price-earnings ratio.
r — dividend declared or paid in preceding 12 months, plus stock dividend.
s — stock split. Dividend begins with date of split.
sls — sales.
t — dividend paid in stock in preceding 12 months, estimated cash value on ex-dividend or ex-distribution date.
u — new yearly high.
v — trading halted.
vj — in bankruptcy or receivership or being reorganized under the Bankruptcy Act, or securities assumed by such companies.
wd — when distributed.
wi — when issued.
ww — with warrants.
x — ex-dividend or ex-rights.
xds — ex-distribution.
xw — without warrants.
y — ex-dividend and sales in full.
yld — yield.
z — sales in full.

ASIA/PACIFIC

Adsteam Fires Chief After Posting Loss

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SYDNEY — Adelaide Steamship Co. said Thursday it is sacking Managing Director John Spalvins after reporting that the conglomerate he had built up posted a loss of 1.28 billion Australian dollars ($991 million) in the six months ended Dec. 31.

Adsteam, sagging under total debt of about 9 billion dollars, also said its bankers had given support "in principle" for an initial debt restructuring to last through the end of this year.

The debt package is crucial for the survival of the group, which has announced plans to unwind its complex web of cross-shareholdings, sell off assets to pare down debt and focus on retailing.

The half-year loss compared with a profit of 131.55 million dollars in the same period a year ago.

In addition to the write-downs on its investments, Adsteam said it suffered from the economic recession, which slashed earnings in its retailing, manufacturing, shipping and food businesses.

The company said that Mr. Spalvins, once regarded as one of the toughest and most powerful businessmen in Australia, would have *his employment "terminated"* when the restructuring is completed. He will be replaced by George Haines, managing director of the Adsteam associate Tooth & Co., an investment company.

Finance director Michael Kent and company secretary Neil Branford will resign, Adsteam added.

The huge losses, which were widely expected, were announced after the stock market closed. Adsteam shares closed one cent lower at 33 cents.

Shares in the upmarket retailer David Jones, which will be at the top of the restructured group, rose a penny to 58 cents.

The company's loss included a 162 million dollar loss on the sale of shares in three of Australia's big banks and a 303 million dollar write-down on other shares.

It also included a tax bill of 250 million dollars, which Adsteam agreed to pay in a settlement with Australia's tax office last week.

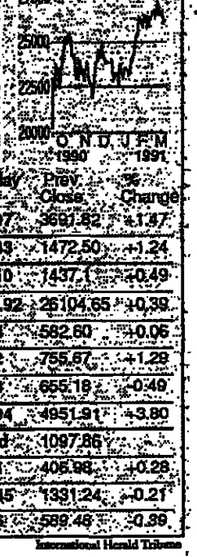
(Reuters, AFP)

■ Court Rules for Bond

An Australian court on Thursday ruled that Bond Corp. Holdings would be allowed to present a debt-for-equity proposal to its creditors, a plan that aims to keep the debt-mired company out of liquidation, Reuters reported from Sydney. Executive Director Kim McGrath said Bond Corp. hoped to win creditor approval of the plan by the end of May.

The company also said it had a loss of 298.2 million dollars in the three months ended Dec. 31.

Investor's Asia



Exchange	Index	Thursday Close	Prev. Close	% Change
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	3745.97	3691.82	+1.47
Singapore	Straits Times	1490.83	1472.50	+1.24
Sydney	All Ordinaries	1444.10	1437.1	+0.49
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	26206.92	26104.65	+0.39
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	582.94	582.60	+0.06
Bangkok	Book Club	765.42	755.87	+1.28
Seoul	Composite Stock	651.98	655.18	-0.49
Taipei	Weighted Price	5139.94	4951.91	+3.80
Manila	Composite	Closed	1097.86	
Jakarta	Stock Index	408.11	406.98	+0.28
New Zealand	Barclays	1328.45	1331.24	-0.21
Bombay	National Index	587.16	589.48	-0.39

Sources: Reuters, AFP International Herald Tribune

Seoul Tries to Redirect Big Business

Reuters

SEOUL — The government is changing credit controls affecting South Korea's long-established conglomerates, known as *chaebol*, to help improve international competitiveness, Finance Ministry officials said Thursday.

Under a new set of guidelines, ceilings imposed on banks' total lending to the chaebol will be based on the conglomerates' total borrowing instead of their assets, a ministry official said.

The ceilings are expressed as a percentage of a bank's total loan portfolio that can be directed to the chaebol. However, the new ceilings will not apply to borrowings for three main business lines of each chaebol, to encourage specialization, the official said.

Specialization has been a goal of economic planners, who believe the chaebol would be more competitive internationally if they concentrated on areas of strength rather than dissipating resources on many different operations.

The ceilings will apply to the 30 biggest conglomerates in terms of borrowing, rather than in terms of assets as at present.

The government will identify the 30 largest borrowers and will base the ceilings on an average of each conglomerate's outstanding loans at the end of each of the last three months of a calendar year. This is intended to prevent companies from artificially manipulating their borrowings at the end of one period in a bid to be excluded from the top 30 list, the official said.

Each conglomerate will choose the three exempt business lines, usually after discussion with its main creditor bank.

"The new guidelines are set up in a way to ease credit controls in general," the ministry official said.

Jardine Settles With Bear Stearns for $60 Million

Reuters

HONG KONG — Jardine Strategic Holdings Ltd. said Thursday it had reached a settlement with Bear Stearns Cos. in New York over class actions brought by Bear Stearns against Jardine relating to the aborted 1987 stock offer by the Hong Kong company.

The settlement totals about $60 million, Jardine said, significantly less than the $275 million in damages sought by the plaintiffs. The settlement was reached out of court after three weeks of trial before a jury in a New York State court.

"The settlement provides for a payment of $3.53 per share to a class of shareholders who owned approximately 17 million shares of Bear Stearns stock as of Oct. 23, 1987," a Jardine statement said.

The plaintiffs had sought damages after Jardine Strategic made a bid for 20 percent of Bear Stearns stock before the October 1987 global share collapse, but then terminated the offer after stock prices plunged.

"The settlement will become final upon completion of the procedures for settlement of class actions under New York state law," the statement added. The original Jardine offer for the stock was $23 a share, but the equity price had slumped to $12 a share by the time Jardine withdrew its bid.

Analysts said the settlement lifted the last bothersome source of pressure on the Jardine group's shares.

"This was the last uncertainty keeping the share price down, said Ravi Narain, a research director at Peregrine Brokerage. "All the uncertainties have been lifted now," he said.

"One would obviously prefer not to pay anything on a claim that was not well founded," said Greg Terry, group general counsel of the Jardine Matheson group. "But we feel that, as a public company, it was prudent to avoid the inevitable risks of litigation for a sum of money less than the accrued interest on the claim."

He said the original claim was about $212 million and the interest accrued since 1987 would have brought it to about $275 million.

Mr. Terry said the $60 million settlement would be booked into the 1990 balance sheet as an extraordinary loss.

"Our 1990 accounts are not finalized, and that is what the auditors have advised us to do," he said. "The net effect is that our reserves go down and borrowing goes up."

Mr. Narain said "that leaves them with a clean slate for 1991."

He added that the settlement, if paid through borrowings at an interest rate of about 9 percent, would spell interest payments of about $5 million a year.

"That won't put much of a strain on their cash flow," Mr. Narain said.

ALFRED BERG NORDEN
Société d'Investissement à Capital Variable
Registered Office: L-1528 Luxembourg, 5, bd. de la Foire
R.C. Luxembourg B 26149

Shareholders are invited to attend the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS
which will be held at 5, boulevard de la Foire, Luxembourg, on April 19, 1991 at 11:00 a.m. with the following agenda:

1. Submission of the Reports of the Board of Directors and of the Auditor;
2. Approval of the balance sheet and of the profit and loss statement as of December 31, 1990;
3. Resolution in respect of the allocation of distributable income;
4. Approval of the action of the Directors and of the Auditor in respect of the carrying out of their duties during the fiscal year ended December 31, 1990;
5. Receipt of and action on nominations for election of directors and of the auditor for a new statutory terms;
6. Miscellaneous business as may properly come before the meeting.

Note:
Holders of bearer shares may vote at the Meeting:
— in person by producing at the Meeting either share certificates or a certificate of deposit issued by their bank which will be issued to them against deposit of their share certificates
— by proxy by completing the form of proxy which will be made available to them against deposit of the share certificates as aforesaid.

Share certificates so deposited will be retained until the Meeting or any adjournment thereof has been concluded.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ALFRED BERG SICAV
Société d'Investissement à Capital Variable
Registered Office: L-1528 Luxembourg, 5, bd. de la Foire
R.C. Luxembourg B 26150

Shareholders are invited to attend the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS
which will be held at 5, boulevard de la Foire, Luxembourg, on April 19, 1991 at 10:00 a.m. with the following agenda:

1. Submission of the Reports of the Board of Directors and of the Auditor;
2. Approval of the balance sheet and of the profit and loss statement as of December 31, 1990;
3. Resolution in respect of the allocation of distributable income;
4. Approval of the action of the Directors and of the Auditor in respect of the carrying out of their duties during the fiscal year ended December 31, 1990;
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Share certificates so deposited will be retained until the Meeting or any adjournment thereof has been concluded.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

International Herald Tribune

WEEKEND

A Terrorist Drama Seen as Passion Play

'Klinghoffer' Doesn't Take Sides

by Joan Dupont

BRUSSELS — The world premiere of "The Death of Klinghoffer" at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie was swathed in suspense. Based on the 1985 hijacking of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro by Palestinians and the murder of a handicapped American passenger, staged by a gang of *enfants terribles*, the piece promised to be polemical. The director Peter Sellars, the composer John Adams, the choreographer Mark Morris, and the librettist Alice Goodman are known for their ironic 1987 "Nixon in China."

Would Klinghoffer with its verse, video and sophisticated sound design be a postmodern docudrama, or a Rocky Horror Show? The atmosphere was hectic with high security and expectations. "Aeschylus was run out of town after 'The Persians,'" said Gerard Mortier, the Monnaie's director. "We'll see what happens to us."

The three-hour, multimedia event turned out to be more passion play than agitprop, a meditation on the division of peoples. Sellars has staged an opera that does not take sides.

The drama is acted on many levels — and on a four-story set, an abstract ocean liner, rigged with video and sound monitors, alternating between live and synthesized sound and images. A French journalist who had predicted "deliciously disgusting" antics — the wheelchair-bound Klinghoffer pitched overboard into the audience — was confounded. Instead, Keith Sabado, a dancer, does a high-wire aerial swoon, falling backward to the stage.

Equal treatment is carried out in the costumes — the same preppy outfits in different hues. To eschew type casting, Palestinians are interchangeable with tourists. A singer who first plays a 55-year-old housewife later doubles as a gun-toting terrorist. This device leads to confusion, and Goodman's hard-hitting verse, sung by the chorus on catwalks 50 feet up, is sometimes hard to decipher.

George Tsypin's set is a giant module that can be taken apart and rebuilt on other stages — from Lyon next month to Brooklyn in the fall. John Adams's score, both high tech and sensuous, resonates from synthesizers and samplers. Sellars's video cameras zoom close-ups on big screens.

THE work starts with a "Chorus of Exiled Palestinians," as if in Greek tragedy: "My father's house was razed/ In nineteen forty-eight/ When the Israelis passed/ Over our street." Later, a "Chorus of Exiled Jews" gets its say.

Morris's choreography serves as another form of commentary — dancers shadow the singers or are used in counterpoint. Acting as Klinghoffer's ghostly double, Keith Sabado sits in the wheelchair while Sanford Sylvan is on his feet, singing out the rage of the helpless hostage from behind a blindfold.

Sylvan (Klinghoffer), James Maddalena (the Captain), Eugene Perry and Thomas Hammons (terrorists, Mamoud and Rambo), who have been in other Sellars operas, are singers with a gift for dramatic movement. Even Kent Nagano (who has also conducted "Nixon") seems to dance.

Despite some hitches, Sellars was elated by the opening: "For a world premiere, you're just trying to get it all on stage," he says. "We're going to have major adjustments; Lyon will have a British chorus half the size of this one. We'll miss the huge warm sound of 57 singers, but John's harmonic writing may stand out more."

He says that his inspiration for staging Klinghoffer came from watching Morris's "L'Allegro," created to Handel's music in Brussels three years ago. "The singers were in the pit and I thought, what if they were up on the same stage as the dancers? If you got that level of emotion up on stage?"

Although they live scattered over the map, they do communicate and seem to share a spiritual sense. Goodman had them all reading "Jonah and the Whale" and "Moby Dick." Sellars peppers his conversation with citations from the Koran and the Old Testament. Morris is close to the imagery of Milton and Blake, and Adams says he composes from someplace deep inside that he takes very good care of.

Goodman faxed her libretto from Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Morris in Brussels. Sellars came every day to watch the choreographer work, and made contributions.

"It's wonderful what Peter got out of them," says Morris. "He staged the falling body of Keith. Now, if *I* had asked Keith to drop down into the void on the end of a string, he wouldn't have done it."

Sellars also put his touch to the prologue — a satirical piece, and staged the videos.

"I'm obsessed by close-ups. When I made a video of 'Don Giovanni' this year, I realized that facial expressions tell you so much — especially with these singers; we picked side angles so you get this amazing double image, a cubist quality.

"And video builds into the theme of dividing people and showing that we have many selves. The idea is that it's not a great day for the Palestinians or a great day for Israel, it's just deeper than that, it's just a human tragedy, a horrible, unsolvable situation."

INSTEAD of dialogue, the split between the opposing characters is dramatized in a few violent flare-ups. Klinghoffer confronts a Palestinian called Rambo: "There's so much anger in you./ And hate. I know how/ Children in the Promised Land/ Learn to sleep underground/ Because of your shelling." Rambo's response: "America/ Is one big Jew./ What did you say?/ You are old and ugly./ Not for one day/ Will your children miss you." — makes a powerful showdown. But "Klinghoffer" is not exactly "West Side Story."

"East Side Story, perhaps?" suggests Adams wryly. "Actually, this was going to be a very different opera. . . . As the libretto developed and as the music evolved, it became evident that this was a far more serious work and needed to be treated like a piece of sacred music."

Adams, at 44, is the elder statesman of the team, the sage among precocious imps. "I'm proud, as an American, to present this work at a time when Americans are known for exporting smart bombs," he says. He started composing the music two years ago. "It was like singlehandedly building a skyscraper. In order to portray this immensely complex event, I needed to avail myself of a very large palette of musical expressions — samplers allow me the sound of a 120-piece orchestra. I have no trouble with this.

"I am interested in creating music that communicates. Most contemporary opera gets one performance, everyone politely shakes the composer's hand and that's it."

How does he think "The Death of Klinghoffer" will play in Brooklyn? "People will come really cranked up, looking for trouble, but I would be very surprised if this opera divided," he says. "The war isn't over; a lot of reflecting is going on right now, and I think that the next two years will be just ripe for Klinghoffer."

In Brussels to April 2; Lyon: April 13, 15, 17, 19; Vienna: May 9, 11, 13, 15; Brooklyn Academy of Music: Sept. 5, 7, 9, 11, 13; Los Angeles Music Center: September-October 1992; San Francisco Opera: November 1992. ■

Joan Dupont is a Paris-based writer specializing in the arts.

Chirchen Bass-Monnaie

Terrorist stands behind Klinghoffer's dancing double in wheelchair.

Akira Kurosawa: Is he forgiving the U. S. for Nagasaki bombing?

Kurosawa's Bomb

by T. R. Reid

TOKYO — With the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor looming at the end of this year's calendar, Japan's greatest filmmaker has launched a bombshell in the direction of American moviegoers. After five decades of directing, 29 feature films, two Oscars and every other award the world of cinema can bestow, 80-year-old Akira Kurosawa has finally made a movie about the subject that has been lurking in his mind like a bad dream for 45 years: The atomic bomb.

Kurosawa's "Rhapsody in August" is a beautiful, engaging, haunting and unforgettable story of one family's reaction to the nuclear attack on Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945. It is also a story that seems certain to make a lot of Americans go ballistic.

That's what happened in Tokyo recently when the director previewed his creation for reporters, both Japanese and foreign. At the press conference, Kurosawa ran into so much hostility from the foreign press that he stopped taking questions and launched into a monologue about why he made the movie.

The answer to that is made clear in the picture, but it comes out with a typical Kurosawa plot surprise. Kurosawa's story starts out as if he were going to portray the United States as an evil, murderous nation. "They dropped the bomb on us," one of the characters says early on, "and now they don't want to think about it."

But then a completely sympathetic American appears, played by Richard Gere, who speaks Japanese throughout his part. In the crucial scene between the Japanese heroine and a rather wimpy Gere, Kurosawa clearly forgives the United States for dropping history's only A-bombs on his country.

For Japanese audiences, this is an interesting and perhaps touching development. But in the West, it will provoke questions: Is it really the United States that needs to be forgiven for the tragedies of World War II? Why doesn't this movie ever point out that Japan started the war? Why focus on Nagasaki and ignore what Japan did at Nanking, Pearl Harbor, Bataan, etc.?

"That would be a different movie," Kurosawa told reporters. "It was not my intention to make a movie about Pearl Harbor. I wanted to tell the story of this family in Nagasaki, and to do that you have to tell the story of the atomic bomb that was dropped there."

"Rhapsody in August" is much more accessible than the exotic world of Kurosawa's previous film, "Dreams" (1990), and it should appeal to a wider audience.

The film is tentatively scheduled to open in the United States the first week in December — the 50th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor raid. But since it will be shown at the Cannes festival this spring and open in Japan this May, the resulting publicity may lead to an earlier U.S. debut.

Kurosawa buffs will find all the signature touches here: the fascination with clouds and heavy rain, the beautiful forest scenes, the Western music, the amplified background sounds, the repeated symbolic motifs.

But even people who aren't into the aesthetics of arty Japanese films will fall under the spell of Sachiko Murase, in a riveting performance as the 80-ish grandmother, and the four youngsters playing her grandchildren. Despite the forbidding topic, much of the movie has the same playful air as Kurosawa's samurai hired-gun movie, "Yojimbo."

The time is August 1990 — 45 years after the bomb — and the kids are spending summer vacation at grandmother's farm outside Nagasaki. Gradually, they discover that her husband and some of her siblings were killed in the blast.

IN his understated way, Kurosawa vividly portrays the terror of that moment and the intense sense of mission it instilled in the survivors — a mission to make sure the world never forgets the horror of a nuclear weapon. There's a gripping scene when the four laughing kids suddenly come upon the grotesquely twisted wreckage of a playground climbing structure.

The kids also learn that summer that they have a rich Japanese American cousin in Hawaii. When it turns out that this cousin is coming to Nagasaki to visit the grandmother, everyone agrees not to mention the nuclear blast. Americans, after all, won't want to hear about it.

Casting Richard Gere as a Japanese American requires some suspension of disbelief on the part of the audience.

There will presumably be controversy aplenty about Gere's thoroughly apologetic American view of the war. Cast as a resident of Hawaii, he evidently doesn't remember Pearl Harbor. But he falls all over himself telling Grandmother how sorry he is that Americans dropped the nuclear bomb that killed her husband.

"It's O.K.," she says in the climactic scene, with Gere and Grandmother sitting on a bench beneath an impossibly big full moon. "Don't worry about it. It's all right now." And with that, America stands forgiven.

Actually, it's the American people, not the government, whom Kurosawa is forgiving in this film.

"I'm trying to say that war is not a matter between the people of the two countries. It's the politics, the leaders, who make war," Kurosawa said.

But will the moviegoing people of America be willing to forgive Kurosawa for his atom bomb movie? The combative octogenarian says he doesn't care.

"All I want is for movie lovers to come see my film," he said. "All I'm doing is expressing myself. If you disagree with me, that's fine. Fire away!" ■

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INTERNATIONAL ARTS AGENDA

AUSTRIA

Linz

Neue Galerie der Stadt (tel: 2393.3600). To April 2: 200 graphic works by Max Ernst, including illustrated books and lithographs.

Vienna

Albertina (tel. 534.83). To April 28: Drawings and paintings by Ingres, from the Ingres museum in Montauban, France.

ENGLAND

London

English National Opera (tel: 836.0111). Mozart's "Don Giovanni," Jerzy Maksymiuk (March 27 through April 27) and James Holmes (from April 30), conductors; Jonathan Miller, director; performances through May 15. Strauss's "Salome," Richard Armstrong, conductor; Joachim Herz, director; April 5 to 19.

Hayward Gallery (tel: 261.0127). To May 19: "Twilight of the Tsars:" Russian art, architecture, design and photography at the turn of the century.

National Gallery (tel: 839.3321). To April 21: "Van Gogh to Picasso," 76 works including 14 by Seurat, eight by Cezanne and 45 by Picasso, on loan from the Heinz Berggruen collection. Also "Art in the Making: Impressionism" illustrates the role played by new techniques and materials in late 19th century art.

FRANCE

Boulogne-Billancourt

Centre Culturel (tel: 47.12.77.95). To May 11: 16th and 17th century Russian icons and embroidered icons done by the Stroganov workshops, from the collections of Soviet museums.

Nice

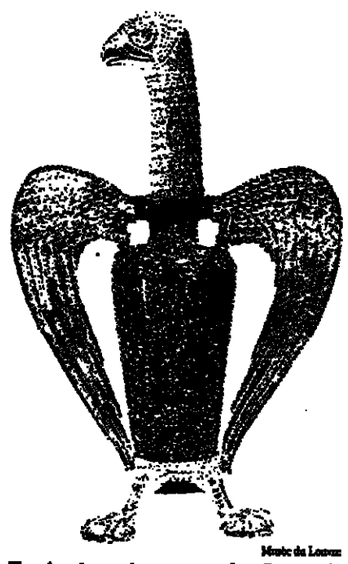
Opéra (tel: 93.85.67.31). Mozart's "La Finta Giardiniera," David Heusel, conductor; Peter Theiler, director; Jean Blancon, designer; March 31, April 2, 4, 6.

Paris

Artcurial, Centre d'Art Plastique Contemporain (tel: 42.99.16.16). To May 4: Drawings by 54 20th century artists, including Braque, de Chirico, Giacometti, Klee and de Stael.

Hôtel de Ville, Salle Saint-Jean (tel: 42.76.40.66). To April 7: Sculptures by Italian Arturo Martini (1889-1947).

Musée de Montmartre (tel: 46.06.61.11). To April 7: "Modigliani and the Paris School:" 64 paintings, drawings, watercolors and sculptures by Modigliani, as well as works by Foujita, Picasso, Utrillo and other artists who worked in Montmartre.



Musée du Louvre

Eagle-shaped vase at the Louvre's "The Treasure of Saint-Denis."

Musée du Louvre (tel: 42.60.39.26). To May 27: An exhibition of 9 paintings by Joos van Cleve, 16th century Flemish painter, and 30 paintings of comparison, showing the Italian influences on him. To June 17: Over 60 ivories, scrolls, coronation instruments and other pieces from the treasure of Saint-Denis, one of the most important Western medieval collections. Includes Charlemagne's ivory chess set and Charles V's gold sceptre.

Pavillon des Arts (tel: 42.33.82.50). To April 28: Retrospective devoted to the Basque painter Ignacio Zuloaga (1870-1945).

Salle Pleyel (tel: 45.63.07.96). The Orchestre de Paris performs Bartok's "Music for Strings, Percussion and Celesta," "Pianoforte Concerto No. 2," and "The Miraculous Mandarin;" Pierre Boulez, conductor; Andras Schiff, piano; April 4, 5.

Théâtre du Soleil (tel: 43.74.24.08). Performances through June 2 of Euripides's "Iphigenia in Aulis," and Aeschylus's "Agamemnon" and "The Choephoroe," both from his "Oresteia" trilogy of the tragic Atreus family, directed by Ariane Mnouchkine.

Saint-Denis

Théâtre Gérard Philippe (tel: 42.43.17.17). Euripides's "Les Bacchantes," Philippe Adrien, stage director; performances April 2 to 27.

GERMANY

Berlin

Deutsche Oper (tel: 34.10.249). New production of Verdi's "Otello," Giuseppe Sinopoli, conductor; Graham Vick, stage director; March 31, April 4, 8, 12.

Martin-Gropius-Bau (tel: 25.48.60). To April 28: "From Expressionism to Resistance: Art in Germany 1909-1936, From the Marvin and Janet Fishman Collection."

Bonn

Stadtisches Kunstmuseum (tel: 77.36.86). To April 7: The internationally prominent Oppenheim Video Collection presents the history of art videos from the early 1960's to the present day.

Düsseldorf

Kunstmuseum Düsseldorf (tel: 899.24.60). To May 5: "Albrecht Dürer and His Times;" 50 watercolors and drawings along with copper-plate and wood engravings by Dürer are accompanied by pieces of his contemporaries from the late 15th and early 16th centuries.

IRELAND

Dublin

Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art (tel: 741.903). To June 16: "The Berlinische Galerie Art Collection Visits Dublin 1991." 250 paintings, sculptures, graphics and photographs relating to art movements which flourished in Berlin, from Dada to East German art of the 1980's.

JAPAN

Tokyo

National Museum of Western Art (tel: 3828.5131). To May 19: 60 drawings and prints by Dürer, Holbein, Kubin, Schiele and other European masters from the Albertina in Vienna.

NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam

De Nieuwe Kerk (tel: 268.168). To April 21: 50 pieces from the treasury of San Marco in Venice, the richest collection of medieval objects in the world.

Rijksmuseum (tel: 673.21.21). To April 27: 115 Dutch drawings, mostly from the 17th century, from the Abrams Collection. Includes works by Rembrandt.

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh

Scottish National Portrait Gallery (tel: 556.89.21). To April 14: Photographs by Francis Frith, 19th century travel photographer, taken during his three expeditions to Egypt and the Holy Land.

SPAIN

Barcelona

Fundació Joan Miró (tel: 329.19.08). To April 14: Paintings and collages by Catalan artist Antoni Tapies from collections and museums worldwide.

Madrid

Fundación Juan March (tel: 435.42.40). To April 28: "Picasso: Portraits of Jacqueline." 112 paintings, sculptures and prints inspired by and dedicated to Picasso's last wife.

SWITZERLAND

Fribourg

Musée d'Art et d'Histoire (tel: 22.85.71). To April 7: Pieces by Jean Tinguely from a Moscow exhibition last spring, from the museum's collection, and recent works, shown in his hometown.

Zurich

Kunsthaus (tel: 251.67.65). To April 21: Drawings by 11 German artists, mostly Impressionist and Expressionist, from the years 1880 to 1930. Includes works by Menzel and Liebermann, a striking self-portrait by Lovis Corinth, and a rare book by the Brocke group.

UNITED STATES

Los Angeles

County Museum of Art (tel: 857.6111). To May 12: "Degenerate Art: The Fate of the Avant-Garde in Nazi Germany." The re-creation of a 1937 Munich art show as well as the atmosphere of cultural life at that time.

New York

International Center of Photography, Midtown (tel: 860.1783). To April 7: "En Liberte:" 200 works by 30 contemporary French photographers.

Whitney Museum of American Art, Madison Ave. at 75th Street (tel. 570.3633). To April 7: The drawings of Jasper Johns.

CRITICS' CHOICE

Puccini's 'Manon' in Paris

■ "Manon Lescant," Puccini's operatic version of the Abbé Prévost's novel, appears never to have had a stage production in Paris since the Metropolitan Opera did it there on tour in 1910, with Toscanini and Caruso. This oversight is about to be rectified by the Opéra Bastille, with 12 performances scheduled between April 9 and May 4. Philippe Auguin conducts a cast that includes Diana Soviero and Barbara Daniels sharing the title role; Vasile Moldoveanu as Des Grieux; Jeffrey Black, Patrick Raftery and Philippe Duminy as Lescant, and Jules Bastin as Géronte. Robert Carsen is the stage director and Anthony Ward the designer for this co-production with the Flanders Opera of Antwerp.

Jack B. Yeats's Late Work

■ "Jack B. Yeats: The Late Paintings," at the Whitechapel Art Gallery in London from April 5 to May 26, gathers 45 of the artist's late paintings in the first showing of his work in a British public gallery since 1960. Yeats (1871-1957), younger brother of the poet W. B. Yeats, sought to capture Irish life and landscape in drawings and watercolors, turning to oils later with an increasing vehemence of style that brought him close to expressionism. The show moves to the Gemeentemuseum in The Hague from June 21 to Sept. 15.

Lyon Orchestra Tours U.S.

■ The Orchestre National de Lyon under its music director, Emmanuel Krivine, will give 12 concerts in 12 U. S. cities from April 2 to 19. Dates include Avery Fisher Hall in New York (April 3); Kennedy Center, Washington (April 7), and Orchestra Hall, Chicago (April 14). Repertory includes Ravel's "Daphnis et Chloé" suite No. 2, Berlioz's "Symphonie Fantastique," Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 (with Bruno Leonardo Gelber), and Saint-Saëns' Piano Concerto No. 2 (with Jean-Philippe Collard).

Sculpture in Monte Carlo

■ The third Monte Carlo Sculpture Biennale, which runs to Sept. 30, has assembled more than 50 works, representing various 20th century tendencies, that will exhibited in the atrium and the square of the Casino, as well as on the promenades and other public areas. Among the artists represented this year are Miró, Calder, César, Sandro Chia, Barry Flanagan, Robert Indiana, Sol LeWitt, Giacomo Manzù, Arman and Dennis Oppenheim.

Martinu's 'Greek Passion'

■ Bohuslav Martinu's last opera, "The Greek Passion," will have a new production by the Opéra du Rhin in Strasbourg, not quite 30 years after its world premiere in Zurich. The Czech composer's work, based on the novel "Christ Recrucified" by Nikos Kazantzakis, will be done in a French version by Michel Ancey, staged by René Terrasson and designed by Isabel Echarri and Diego Etcheverry. Robert Satanowski, music director of the Wielki Theater in Warsaw, will conduct a cast headed by Tibère Raffalli, Nicolas Christou, Jean-Marie Frémeau and Rémy Corazza. Performances are in Strasbourg from April 5 to 19, in Mulhouse April 26, 28 and 30, and in Colmar May 4.

Picasso in Arles

■ "Picasso: La Provence et Jacqueline" is an exhibition focusing on the artist in Provence and the Arles region, and his wife *en Arlésienne*, and includes works such as "Les Arènes d'Arles" not previously exhibited. It runs to May 12 in the city's Espace van Gogh.

ACROSS
23 The Sacred
24 Uncle Remus
31 Memorandum
37 Gumbel
38 Jabir, for
39 Nationalist Movement
40 Hallowing
41 Hallowing
42 Thing
43 Cigar
47 Overlook
48 Dance in the Capital

Solution to Previous Puzzle

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Middle East Edition

WEEKEND

In Pop, Big Bucks, Big Gambles

by Stephen Holden

NEW YORK — Janet Jackson recently signed what has been trumpeted as the most lucrative recording contract in history. The deal, with the London-based label Virgin, was widely reported to have guaranteed the 24-year-old star somewhere between $32 million and $50 million for three albums. That's more than the Rolling Stones or Bruce Springsteen are guaranteed by their contracts. Indeed, her deal has raised eyebrows throughout the industry, because by any standard, it is a big gamble for Virgin. It is also expected to spur other top stars to demand larger advances when their contracts are up.

Last week it was announced that Michael Jackson had signed a contract with Sony Corp. Neither Sony nor Jackson would say how much he would be paid, but it has been reported that he will receive $60 million to $108 million for six albums. The agreement also calls for him to create films, television programming and a record label.

The advances committed to Janet Jackson alone could launch 100 new recording careers. Instead, record companies are increasingly investing in the big deal: It's all part of the rampant superstar mentality that is afflicting the world of show business and sports. But could all this ferocious bidding be spinning out of control?

Most of the large labels competed for Jackson, whose album "Janet Jackson's Rhythm Nation 1814" has sold more than five million copies in the United States and 2.5 million overseas since its release in late 1989. But only "Rhythm Nation" and her 1986 album "Control" were substantial hits for A&M, for whom she has recorded four records since 1982.

A&M decided not to try to keep her on the label, a spokesman said, because the financial risk would have been too great. For the company to break even, she would have had to sell six million albums with each release. And although such numbers are certainly

Camera Press

Whitney Houston

not out of the question, that degree of commercial success rarely lasts long, even for the biggest stars.

Consider Madonna and Whitney Houston. Both may be more famous today than in the mid-'80s, but their record sales have dropped. Madonna's U. S. album sales have dwindled from a peak of more than seven million for "Like a Virgin," in 1984, to around two million for each of her last two albums.

Houston's 1985 debut album sold more than nine million copies. Her newest album, "I'm Your Baby Tonight," failed to hit No. 1 and will probably end up selling somewhere between three million and four million copies.

Currently, pop music's two biggest selling stars are M. C. Hammer and Vanilla Ice, with domestic sales of nine million and eight million, respectively. If their careers follow the same trajectory as their fellow rappers

Reed Saxon/AP

Vanilla Ice

Camera Press

Janet Jackson

Beastie Boys and Run-D. M. C., sales of their next albums could drop precipitously.

Whether Janet Jackson was guaranteed $32 million or more than $50 million depends on how the numbers are interpreted. She was said to be given $15 million to $17 million to sign with the label and will receive $6 million each for three albums, plus bonuses rumored to be $10 million an album if those records attain certain sales levels.

If Virgin is sold, Jackson has the option of leaving the label with a payment of an additional $10 million.

In announcing the signing, Virgin's chairman, Richard Branson, proclaimed: "A Rembrandt rarely becomes available. When it does, there are many people determined to get it." But even in the crassest commercial terms, is Jackson really a Rembrandt?

The general feeling in the industry is that she probably is not and that Virgin has taken a perilous gamble. Not figured into the deal are the multimillion-dollar advances that would have to be paid to her producers — most likely Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, the talented team that masterminded her two blockbusters — or the costs of making videos, which would probably run between $500,000 and $1 million apiece.

Some of Jackson's other potential liabilities are the fact that she is a producer-dependent artist — i. e., someone who relies on others to make her sound interesting and trendy. She also lacks a sharply defined personality, both as an artist and celebrity.

Where singers like Houston and Mariah Carey have commanding vocal power, Jackson's is a relatively indistinguishable studio voice. In dance-pop, moreover, musical style can become dated overnight, and Jackson's first album under the new deal won't be ready until late 1992 at the earliest.

THE timing by which major stars release albums has changed a great deal since the days when the Beatles made four albums a year. Today, a top pop star puts out a new record every two and a half to three years; in the case of a major performer, four or five singles and their videos are released at carefully timed intervals to insure long life for an album on radio and MTV.

"Rhythm Nation" has yielded seven Top Five singles, a record; they have kept Jackson's voice on the airwaves continuously since the album's release; after 77 weeks, "Rhythm Nation" is still in the Top 25.

If Jackson follows the standard recording schedule, she will be about 30 when her second album under the new deal is released. In today's pop market, 30 is close to over the hill.

Mass-market pop is also geared to a younger, more fickle audience than it was in the '70s and '80s. Pop is increasingly synonymous with youthful fashion, and that's all. M. C. Hammer, Vanilla Ice, New Kids on the Block and Jackson may be role models for youth in the same way the Beatles were, but they don't command the kind of audience involvement in their ideas that the older generation of rock stars did. The ties are much less binding.

Pop's increasing impersonality has been an inevitable product of the big record companies' evolution into high-powered marketing machines. In the early '70s, when Neil Diamond signed a $4 million, 10-album deal with Columbia, many were shocked. Only a few years later, however, stars like Elton John, Paul Simon and Stevie Wonder were receiving long-term guarantees said to be in the neighborhood of $10 million to $14 million. Record companies began to engage in bidding wars that increased the price of talent further.

Winning such a war sometimes became a matter of record company prestige more than financial common sense. When the Rolling Stones moved from Atlantic to Columbia Records in 1983, in a deal said to be worth $28 million, it was because Walter Yetnikoff, the CBS Records president who was deposed last year, decided to sign them at any cost. The deal could never be profitable.

Four years earlier, Yetnikoff had wooed Paul McCartney away from Capitol in a similar deal. Before returning to Capitol, McCartney recorded five albums for Columbia but ended up losing the company an estimated $9 million.

Sometimes an expensive record deal is considered necessary simply to pump product into the distribution network. That was one reason why RCA, a label with a dearth of stars, signed Kenny Rogers, Diana Ross and Barry Manilow to multimillion-dollar contracts in the 1980s.

In the case of Rogers and Ross, the first albums under the new deals were profitable, but record sales subsequently plummeted and eventually all three left the label.

Some of the biggest recent deals have been Warner Brothers' multimillion-dollar investment in the Athens, Georgia, rock band R. E. M.; Virgin's three-album deal with Steve Winwood for $12 million to $14 million, and EMI's signing of Robert Palmer for a reported $12 million contract.

The Winwood deal seemed a good gamble following the success of his 1988 album "Roll With It," but the commercial failure of his newest release now suggests it was a mistake. The Palmer deal seems headed for disaster, since the first album, "Heavy Nova," sold barely a million copies, while its successor, "Don't Explain," failed even to hit the Top 100 on Billboard's pop album chart.

One way record companies hold on to their best-selling acts is by giving them their

Reed Saxon/AP

M. C. Hammer

own labels, so that the stars get to play record-company honcho and sign and record the talent of their choice.

Last summer, Capitol gave M. C. Hammer his own label, and Polygram has done the same with Jon Bon Jovi. In an unusual gesture, Chris Blackwell of Island Records sold the Irish rock band U2 10 percent of the company, which yielded them a windfall of $30 million to $40 million when the label was sold to Polygram last year.

Though risky, all these arrangements tend to stimulate business by creating a climate of excitement and increased motivation in a field that thrives on hyperbole and marketing ingenuity. Their effect on the artistic side of pop, however, is highly questionable. The more money a company invests in an act, the more effort will be devoted to making that investment profitable, inevitably at the expense in time, energy and money of nurturing more idiosyncratic talents.

Even after Bruce Springsteen, U2 and Prince were signed to major record labels,

Camera Press

Steve Winwood

their careers took several years to develop. Shrewd marketing instincts may sell records, but they don't insure quality. Increasingly lost in the sea of numbers and eight-figure deals is the notion that there might be a difference between artistic quality and commercial success.

By today's thinking, if Janet Jackson is a Rembrandt, then Michael Jackson must be a Michelangelo. ■

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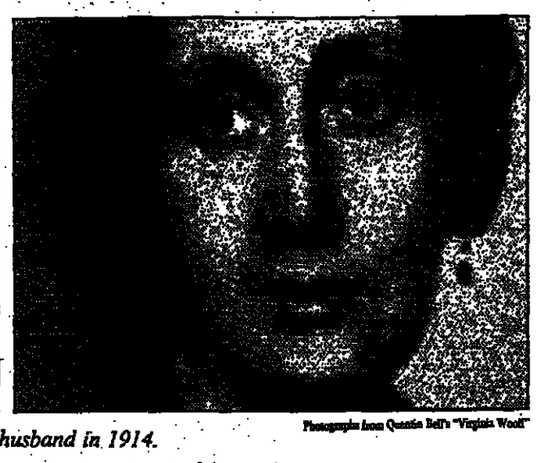

Photographs from Quentin Bell's "Virginia Woolf"

The writer killed herself 50 years ago. At left, with her husband in 1914.

A Room of Virginia Woolf's Own

by Katherine Knorr

PARIS — She is good material for lady writers and professors of women's studies, an early feminist of course but also a victim of incest raised in Victorian England who grew into a mad woman tending to lesbianism, and finally a suicide, by drowning in a Sussex river. It's enough to make the average reader very much afraid of Virginia Woolf.

So the feminists have done their favorite daughter a disservice, for Virginia Woolf is not a lady writer, not a Victorian diarist or milkmaid with literary talent or maiden aunt poet or any of the things that small presses have advertised over the years as forgotten masterpieces by the silent sex.

Virginia Woolf walked into the Ouse River 50 years ago this month, with a big rock in her pocket. This was not a cry for help: She did not intend to be saved. She left her husband, Leonard, a note saying no two people could have been happier, and she was not found for some time.

Her action was not a complete surprise. She had been subject to bouts of madness, as they say, and had tried to kill herself before. Much nonsense has been said about her madness, but then much nonsense has been said about almost everything having to do with Virginia Woolf (notably unwelcome affection from one of her half-brothers), whose life fortunately was definitively written by her nephew Quentin Bell.

When Virginia Woolf was becoming famous, there were people who said that they preferred her essays to her fiction. It was a bit of bloody-mindedness, and it still seems perverse that "A Room of One's Own" would continue in some minds to overshadow the novels.

Woolf's comments on the women's question were beautifully written. The book is a classic on the subject of women and art, one that is not even closely rivaled by the angry and illiterate publications coming out of women's studies programs in American universities. But it is an essay, hardly what Woolf should be remembered by, anymore than Zola should be reduced to "J'accuse."

Woolf grew up in a society where boys went to school and girls served tea, where a woman blessed with fertility was also quite literally constantly laid up by pregnancy, and where many poor girls had few choices but to go into service. She did not, however, grow up in a conventional middle-class family. While her father, the writer Leslie Stephen, was querulous and selfish and tyrannical, and indeed made his daughters' lives miserable after their mother's death, he was no textbook Victorian pater familias. He made much of Virginia's intelligence, and he left her the run of his library. She also came to know her brother's Cambridge friends, in that unbuttoned and now legendary set of circumstances that led to Bloomsbury, and to overshadow most of them in every way. Although Virginia never went to school, most people today would find her to be very well educated indeed.

Hers was a pivotal generation. From a remove, it seems they were born in a musty time when everyone dressed in dark and bulky clothes and posed for lifeless pictures with extraordinary hats. They walked out into the light, took down the dark drapes and the paintings of worthy and boring ancestors, and became modern. Then came the war, which ploughed under farmer and butler and gentleman and English society. Men went to France and died, women went to work in factories and never returned to kitchens or scullieries.

Virginia Woolf is among the writers in this century who took down the ancestors, threw out the green velvet and the dark wardrobes and made literature modern. Her contemporaries in that sense are not writers of manners novels, or even Katherine Mansfield, whom she felt as a rival but whose output in the end was slight. Her contemporaries were Pound and Eliot and William Carlos Williams and, on quite another scale, Joyce.

All through Woolf's novels runs a sense of great sadness, of paradise lost. You can't go home again, life is haunted by the dead, time runs through your fingers faster than sand. "The strange thing about life is that though the nature of it must have been apparent to every one for hundreds of years, no one has left any adequate account of it," she wrote. The ultimate break with paradise and with innocence was, of course, the Great War. In "Jacob's Room," Woolf's first mature book and the one that brought her fame, Jacob, whose life we have been following in close and long shots, is suddenly dead, far away — a door slams shut, a light goes out. In "Between the Acts," Woolf's last, posthumously published, book, a character is irritated at prattle around him as he thinks about the guns bristling in Europe. It is 1939, the lights are going out.

The genius is in the spareness, in the complete control of dialogue and detail. In a few, careful images, almost like camera shots, she brushes light over London bus and bun shop, on the Inns of Court or Kew Gardens, on a sheep skull or a lightbouse, on the minds of the mad or of the very sane.

SHE was a classic case of scribble scribble scribble, starting early on with a family newspaper and a diary. With the anniversary in mind, the Hogarth Press — the distant descendant of the press she and Leonard founded in 1917 — has issued a nice new edition of her novels, letters, diaries and essays, as well as Bell's biography, and — it seems inevitable — has put out never-before-published early journals, which, by golly, show promise.

It is a sad and destructive notion that has invaded so much of modern criticism that we're all created creatively equal and that, if only circumstances are right — a government grant, or university tenure — talent will out, and that we should all be interested in the diaries of pioneer ladies or the screeches of performance artists because these things are, well, good for us. It is also a sad and destructive notion, the legacy of Freud perhaps as interpreted by the women's rights police, that women's lives are one long rape, traceable back to childhood and reflected in everything from TV ads to nursery books.

Virginia Woolf had serious mental problems, as Bell's biography makes clear, but mental problems, for one reason and another, are not rare among artists. When she was sane, she wrote books that place her very high in English literature. Too often, she and her work have been minutely analyzed as lesbian, madwoman, Bloomsbury personage. Too often, she has been used as an example for this or that academic cause, for literary affirmative action, she has been thrown into groups she doesn't belong to. She simply has nothing in common with, say, that mother of all bores, Gertrude Stein. She is in a room of her own. ■

PORTUGAL FILE
A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES...

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ACROSS

1 Faded
6 Hiatuses
10 News
14 Chemical compound
15 Actress Lee
16 Arrived at: O Hare
17 A legal holiday in some states
19 Cocina or alcoba
20 North Sea feeder
21 Solar deity
22 Kind of hound
23 "The Sands of —— —" Kingsley
24 Bridle part
25 Memorandum
27 Comfort
28 Qatar, for one
32 Napoleon, to a Russian
35 Relaxing
36 Ballerina's footing
37 Dies
38 Copy
42 Overlook
45 Dakar is its capital
46 Huron neighbor
47 Brain network
48 Mystery writer Foley
49 Fall behind
52 Enough
55 Patty ingredient
57 Native of Copenhagen
58 Place for take-out goods
59 Seasonal candy
61 Seed covering
62 Rock or lay ending
63 Native of the Near Islands
64 Weaver's reed
65 Composer Janacek
66 Latin teacher's command

DOWN

1 Carried on
2 Soap substitute
3 Tearful wife of Amphion
4 He wrote "The Neverending Story"
5 Leppard of pop music
6 Sparkle
7 Part of A.D.C.
8 Well-organized person
9 Speak
10 Certain spring period
11 London apartment
12 Mah-jongg piece
13 —— of David
18 Make a poker call
22 Regretful one in a song
24 Severe
26 Suffix meaning "mass"
27 Plant native to Taiwan
29 Conk's kin
30 Title of respect in Malaysia
31 Gen. Robert ——
32 "—— to laugh": Pinero
33 Alaskan cape
34 Mine find
39 Crooked, in Yorkshire
40 A psych. test
41 Promote
42 Ointments
43 Fanon
44 Never, to Hans
49 Pilsener
50 Breed of cattle
51 Wren's "Beau ——"
52 Namesakes of actress Rehan
53 European blackbird
54 Move by Susan Jaffe
56 This, in Cádiz
57 Poet Walter —— Mare
59 Congrio
60 Seance noise

Solution to Previous Puzzle

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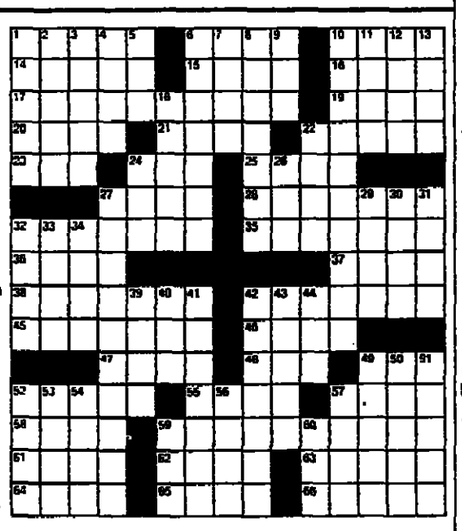


© New York Times, edited by Eugene Maleska.

SPORTS

Valenzuela, Dodger For a Decade, Is Released by Team

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — Fernando Valenzuela, a cult hero at Dodger Stadium since his Rookie of the Year and Cy Young Award season in 1981, Thursday was released by the Los Angeles Dodgers.

By releasing Valenzuela before Monday night, the Dodgers were only responsible for 45 days of his $2.55 million salary.

Valenzuela yielded eight runs in 3⅓ innings of an exhibition game Wednesday in Vero Beach, Florida.

The 31-year-old left-hander from Mexico, who was 13-13 last year, has not resembled the same pitcher since he suffered a shoulder injury in 1988. Although he recorded a no-hitter against St. Louis in June, the Dodgers were not sold on Valenzuela's effectiveness and his spring earned-run average of 7.88 finalized the decision of the front office.

"This was an extremely difficult decision to make because Fernando has established himself as one of the all-time great Dodgers," the Los Angeles general manager, Fred Claire, in a statement. "He has pitched with great heart and tremendous ability, but we had to make a decision based on the needs of our pitching staff.

"We wish Fernando and his family the very best and we will always be greatful for his many contributions."

The Los Angeles manager, Tom Lasorda, waxed nostalgic after the midday annoucement in Vero Beach.

"I will never forget Fernando and all he has done for me and the Los Angeles Dodgers," Lasorda said. "It was a privilege and honor to manage him over the years because he was without a doubt a great talent and great competitor. I want to thank him for all the memories."

Team owner Peter O'Malley, who in recent years lobbied for Valenzuela's place on the roster, said the pitcher transcended the game.

"Fernando has been a very valuable and integral part of Dodger history," he said. "We are very proud of this man, his accomplishments and what he has meant to the Dodgers, the city of Los Angeles and baseball throughout the world."

Valenzuela did not expect the unconditional release.

"These games don't mean nothing," he said after Wednesday's poor outing. "They're just for work, getting ready for the season. I'm with the team, that's the main thing."

Valenzuela, a portly pitcher from the small Mexican town of Sonora, was the most dominant pitcher in the National League a decade ago when he seemingly came out of nowhere to spin a nearly unhittable screwball and become the first person to win the Rookie of the Year and Cy Young Award winner in the same season.

Subbing for Jerry Reuss in the season opener, Valenzuela held Houston to five hits in a 2-0 victory. He went on to record a 13-7 mark and 2.48 ERA and started for the NL in the All-Star Game.

An emerging legend among the large Mexican population in Los Angeles, Valenzuela won 19 games in 1982 and 21 games in 1986. Valenzuela was 0-3 in July 1988 when he was placed on the disabled list for the first time in his career because of a stretched anterior capsule in his left shoulder.

Never a hard thrower, Valenzuela was forced to use more guile upon his return late in the season. He finished 5-8 as the Dodgers defeated the Oakland Athletics in one of the biggest upsets in World Series history.

Valenzuela was 10-13 in 1989 and 141-116 with a 3.31 ERA in his 11 major league seasons.

■ Smith Sidelined

Deion Sanders's chances of making the Atlanta Braves improved Wednesday when Lonnie Smith had arthroscopic knee surgery and doctors said the outfielder would be sidelined for two to four weeks, The Associated Press reported.

The team's orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Joe Chandler, performed the 40-minute procedure on Smith's left knee and said it was "unlikely he will be ready for opening day." The Braves open the season April 9 in Atlanta against the Dodgers.

But overall, Chandler said Smith's "prognosis is excellent."

The Braves' general manager, John Schuerholz, said that Smith's injury improves the chances of a roster spot for Sanders, also a defensive back with the Atlanta Falcons of the National Football League.

"The guy has made us take notice," said Schuerholz. "No question about it."

Elsewhere:

● Dwight Gooden and Frank Viola held contract negotiations with the New York Mets.

Viola's agent made a counterproposal on a contract extension Wednesday, but the Mets turned it down and said talks would continue.

Al Harazin, the team's executive vice president, also spoke with Gooden's agent Jim Neader. Harazin said he would like to meet with Neader this weekend to discuss an extension for Gooden.

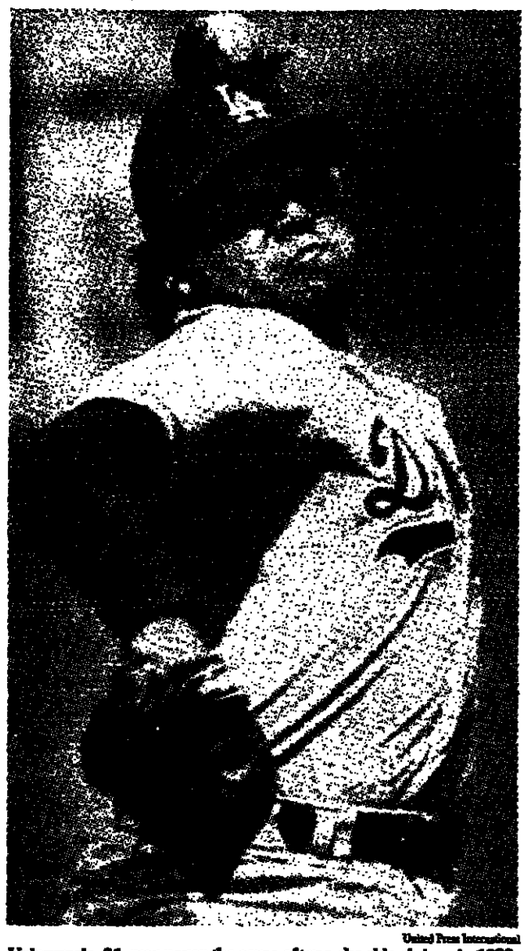
Gooden has turned down an offer of $13.8 million over three years and Viola has rejected $12.5 million for three years. Both can become free agents after this season.

● Cleveland center fielder Alex Cole took about 40 swings in the batting cage. Cole, out since separating his shoulder March 14, is to scheduled to make his return Monday.

● Chili Davis of Minnesota had his second straight two-homer game as the Twins beat the Philadelphia Phillies, 10-4, Wednesday.

Davis has four homers, a double, a single and nine runs batted in in his last eight at-bats. He is hitting .333 this spring.

● Carmelo Martinez of Pittsburgh homered and doubled as the Pirates beat the Texas Rangers, 10-4. Martinez is 12 for 25 in his last seven games. *(UPI, AP)*



United Press International

Valenzuela, 31, was never the same after a shoulder injury in 1988.

Pretoria Closer to '92 Games

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

GENEVA — The International Olympic Committee expects that South Africa will be able to attend the 1992 Olympics, the IOC president said Thursday.

"We are very optimistic and think South Africa really will be in Barcelona," the IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, said at a news conference. "Invitations will be sent on July 25. I think it is a date when we will be ready to send an invitation to South Africa."

If South Africa is interested, Samaranch indicated, the deadline could be extended to enable it to take part in the Winter Olympics in Albertville, France, for which invitations have already been mailed. Samaranch said that "if it is necessary," an exception might be made with the deadline for Barcelona, as well.

Samaranch was in Geneva to meet the IOC delegation returning from a five-day visit to South Africa, which has not participated in the Olympics for 30 years because of bans resulting from its political system of racial apartheid.

The IOC granted temporary recognition of the fledgling International Olympic Committee of South Africa and gave it 180 days to satisfy the committee that the recognition should be permanent.

The IOC is demanding the abolition of apartheid and unification of sports bodies into nonracial groups. It said an umbrella sports organization formed to push for unity must comply with the Olympic Charter.

Keba Mbaye of Senegal, head of an IOC mission to Johannesburg, said the IOC would reach its own definition on the abolition of apartheid. He added that this did not necessarily mean the introduction of black voting rights, as some militant black groups have insisted.

"Extension of democracy is absolutely fundamental in principle and its realization is desirable in principle," Mbaye said, but added that "it is not for us to go so far as to demand that every woman and every man has the vote."

Samaranch said that while South Africa works toward meeting IOC conditions, the IOC would not oppose tours there so long as the sports federation concerned had ended racial divisions. *(AFP, AP)*

From England to Australia, Odds Beat Those in the U.S.

By Andrew Beyer
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — During a stay in Australia this winter, I paid a visit to Gosford Racecourse, a provincial track with a modest grandstand and a modest quality of competition. When I told a local journalist that I loved the charm and rusticity of places like this, he said, "It's not as rustic as you might think," and led me to an unmarked white door on the ground floor.

We entered a private room for the track's big bettors. There were about 15 of them, mostly men in their 30s, each with a personal ticket seller. Each had a portable computer in front of him. The journalist gestured toward one young man, identified him and said: "Today he'll probably bet about $150,000 through the tote, and he'll run outside to make a $10,000 bet with a bookmaker now and then. Of course, this is just a minor day of racing. On a Saturday in Sydney his total turnover might be as much as $500,000."

Of all the aspects of Australian racing, none was so stunning as the sheer magnitude of the wagering. But if I had traveled to Japan, Hong Kong, England or many other countries, I would have had a similar reaction, because the level of betting in America, even at successful tracks, is paltry in comparison.

In 1990 the wagering at Laurel and Pimlico race tracks in suburban Washington was $435 million, a record sum that makes Maryland the envy of its neighbors in the mid-Atlantic region. Yet in the same year, the Australian state of Victoria, which has a population slightly less than that of Maryland, generated $1.4 billion in parimutuel wagering. (And the total doesn't include the hundreds of millions of dollars wagered with legal bookmakers.)

Vantage Point

Whenever U.S. racetrack executives get together at industry conclaves, they talk endlessly about the need to broaden the sport's popularity and attract new fans. But perhaps their real problem is that their horseplayers don't bet enough. If crowds at American tracks wagered more than $400 per capita, as they do in Japan, instead of $162 per capita, the sport could boom without a single new customer.

WHY do American racegoers bet so little? The reason is certainly not a lack of gambling fever or a lack of high-rollers. The casinos of Atlantic City and Las Vegas are filled with players who routinely bet thousands. And the country is filled with people who regularly make large wagers on sporting events. The magazine Gaming and Wagering Business estimates that $25 billion a year is bet illegally on sports — compared with the $9.2 billion bet legally on horses in 1990.

The explanation for this phenomenon is that even gamblers are reasonably rational about the economic decisions they make, and they know that horse racing is usually a bad gamble. Tracks typically take from 17 percent to 25 percent of every dollar wagered, and those in Pennsylvania have blazed new trails by grabbing an exorbitant 30 percent from trifecta wagers.

Even for the most astute professionals it is tough to beat such odds. That high-rolling gambler I saw in the private room at Gosford was playing mostly trifectas, battling a 16 percent takeout, trying to grind out a small percentage profit. Raise that tax to 25 percent and he wouldn't be in action. So it is no wonder that big gamblers in America prefer to call their bookie and bet on a sports event, where there is only a 4.5 percent disadvantage against them.

But even if a gambler is willing to fight these tough percentages, he will find it hard to make a large bet. On a typical Saturday at Pimlico, where the Preakness Stakes is held, the win pool for a feature race may be only $60,000 or so, and a handicapper with a strong opinion couldn't make a $2,000 bet without significantly hurting his own odds. There are plenty of bettors prepared to risk large sums when the right opportunity arises; but on ordinary days there are no wagering pools large enough to attract the big players.

IT takes large betting pools to beget larger betting pools. And the way to build the size of pools is obvious: offtrack betting. Yet not a single state in America has fully exploited offtrack betting in the way many other countries have.

In Australia there is a wagering outlet, called a TAB, in virtually every neighborhood of every city, and these TABs build the pools that enable the pros to wager on such a serious level.

While America has lagged in the development of OTB, some tracks have also begun to experiment with interstate wagering, or "commingled pools," as the industry calls them. If customers at smaller tracks are permitted to wager into the large pools at the California and New York tracks, their bets wouldn't have to be limited by the size of the pool at their home track.

With interstate betting, increased offtrack betting, takeout reduction and other innovations, the thoroughbred industry might start to realize some of its economic potential. But until these changes come, horse betting in America will continue to lag far behind the rest of the world.

Shergar Mystery Renewed

Agence France-Presse

LONDON — The legendary racehorse Shergar, kidnapped in Ireland in 1983, is still alive "happily grazing in a field somewhere in the Channel Islands," the Sun newspaper reported Thursday.

Bounty hunters have informed insurers via an intermediary that the champion stallion could be theirs for 365,000 pounds ($640,000 dollars).

Lloyds insurers confirmed that contact had been made.

Steve Chappell of Lloyds said, "I can tell you that the people who claim to have found the horse are trying to negotiate a finders' fee, but Lloyds will not be paying out any money."

Shergar was valued at 10 million pounds when he was kidnapped by five armed men from a Newbridge stud farm on Feb. 8, 1983. The owner of the horse, the Aga Khan, refused to pay the two million pound ransom that was demanded and, according to some reports, the stallion was killed two days later.

Shergar, who won the Epsom Derby and the Irish Derby in 1981, would be 13.

BOOKS

ROAD FEVER: A High-Speed Travelogue

By Tim Cahill. 278 pages. $17.95. Random House, 201 East 50th Street, New York, N. Y. 10022.

Reviewed by Jonathan Yardley

EARLY in the morning of Sept. 29, 1987, well before daybreak, two men climbed into a General Motors Sierra pickup truck. They were on the Argentine island of Tierra del Fuego, in a place called Ushuaia, which "is considered to be the southernmost town in the world." Their destination was Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, "as far north as you can drive, on the longest road in the world," and that wasn't the half of it: They were trying to cover the 15,000 miles between these two places "in twenty-six days. More or less."

The driver was Garry Sowerby, whose accomplishments as a motorist in extreme circumstances had already made him "something of a Canadian national hero": his companion was Tim Cahill, a free-lance journalist. They were out to break the Guinness Book of World Records benchmark for north-south road travel, and to pick up a few bucks along the way: GM, a principal sponsor of the trip, hoped to use the results to demonstrate the revamped Sierra's road-worthiness under extreme circumstances, and Cahill had a contract with Random House to write the book now on hand.

Good thing he did, or else we'd not have "Road Fever," a highly entertaining account of a trip that scarcely a soul in his right mind would want to take. Sowerby and Cahill may have had a vested interest in the adventure, but they earned every dime of what they got — and then some. At the end of their tale, the reader's only rational response can be: Better them than me.

It's amazing that they even began the trip, much less that they finished it. Consider, for example, that a security consultant who briefed them in advance said the trip "should be run like a military operation," and put so much fear of the Latin American unknown into them that shortly before departure Cahill "heard the scrabbling of . . . cosmic rat claws":

"We were unprepared. Someone was going to get hurt. South American perpetrators would laugh in the face of our four-inch knives. Bad guys would rip us open with Uzis. They'd use our own knives to carve rude messages into various parts of our anatomies. Nothing would go right. We would encounter unpleasant circumstances. My only reading material for the better part of two months would consist of a single ungrammatical sentence: OBJECTS IN MIRROR ARE CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR."

Much to their good fortune, it didn't work out that way. They got through the places they feared most, Colombia and Nicaragua, with little more than a few menacing stares; they drove at night without interruption by bandits; they never even had serious mechanical trouble. Instead it turned out that "regulations would be our biggest problem on the drive": from Argentina to Mexico they encountered an endless succession of policemen and bureaucrats, most of whom could be persuaded to pass them along only after elaborate negotiations and the liberal application of baksheesh.

Tearing along through Chile on the Pan-American Highway "was one life-or-death judgment call after another," each following so quickly upon the other that "there was never a time to relax."

Small wonder that Sowerby and Cahill hardly noticed the scenery through which they passed; not merely were they in too much of a hurry, but they took their eyes off the road at peril to their lives. That they had no accidents borders on the miraculous; that they came in under deadline at trip's end — the dust-jacket copy removes any suspense about this — borders on the inconceivable.

Cahill is a smart writer, and tells the story in a smart way. He allows it to build slowly, describing preparations in great detail, and then devotes all but a few pages of the trip itself to the South American half; little of moment happened the rest of the way, and he's right to play it down. He writes in an agreeably off-the-wall fashion, he has a way with an anecdote, and when circumstances call for it he can be quite funny.

Jonathan Yardley is on the staff of The Washington Post.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

AN extempore partnership eked out a slender victory in the Open Pair Championship at the American Contract Bridge League's Spring Nationals in Atlantic City this March. Larry Mori of Ballston Lake, New York, was due to play here with Kitty Bethe of Manhattan, with whom he won a major title four months ago. But she had to work, and he played instead with her husband, Henry Bethe, and the unexpected partnership squeezed through a 1,229.4 to 1,228.3 victory over Zia Mahmood of Manhattan and Fred Chang of Flushing, Queens.

A single overtrick on the final round of the championship brought victory to Mori and Bethe. A weak two-bid, with less quality than some might expect when vulnerable, carried the partnership to four spades. This was a normal contract, and there was no problem in making 10 tricks. Overtricks were crucial, and determined the match-points.

After a heart lead and a diamond shift, South would have made just 10 tricks. After a diamond lead he would have made one overtrick. But West chose the club queen, and South won in a dummy and led a trump. West held up his ace, hoping for some clue to the red suits, but did not receive any. Bethe as South played clubs, overtaking the jack with the ace, and threw a diamond on the ten.

West ruffed, but still had no idea what to do. As South had discarded a diamond he tried that suit, and South had the remaining tricks and the title.

NORTH
♠KJ75
♡5
♢Q5
♣AK10652

WEST
♠A4
♡K32
♢K98762
♣Q9

EAST
♠2
♡AQ9876
♢J103
♣873

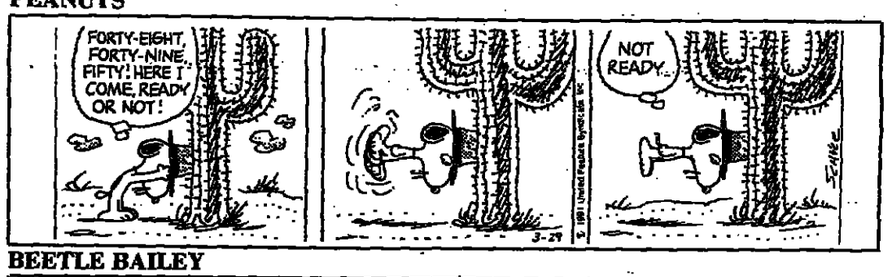
SOUTH (D)
♠Q109863
♡J104
♢A4
♣J4

Both sides were vulnerable. The bidding:

South	West	North	East
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

West led the club queen.

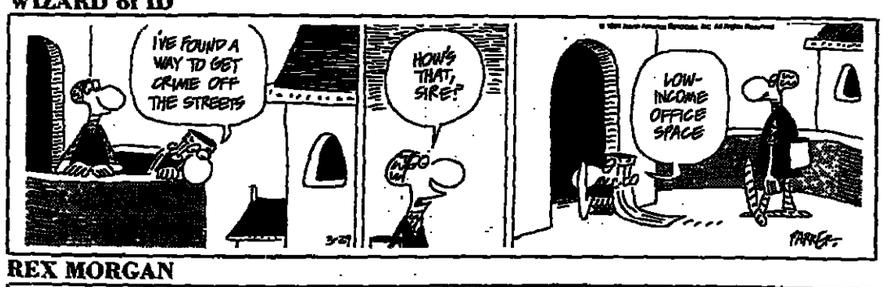
PEANUTS



BEETLE BAILEY

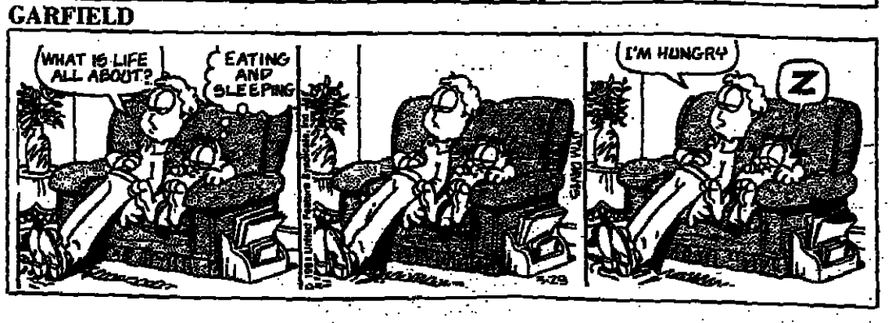
ANDY CAPP

WIZARD of ID



REX MORGAN

GARFIELD



DOONESBURY

DENNIS THE MENACE

JUMBLE® THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KARCC

YASHK

EMBLUH

BLIGET

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: ( )

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BRAIN GRIME UNIQUE ATTACH
Answer: Pollution may be defined as the contamination of nature — By HUMAN NATURE

BLONDIE

SPORTS

Maradona Drug Test Questioned

The Associated Press

ROME — Diego Maradona tested postive for drug use after an Italian league soccer game on March 17, a daily newspaper here reported Thursday.

A spokesman for the Italian soccer federation refused to comment on La Repubblica's report, but said that results of a second test will be available by the end of the week. Generally, a second test in the presence of a doctor appointed by the player or his club is made when the preliminary test, made after a game, is positive.

Maradona could not be immediately reached for comment.

His team, Napoli, said in a statement from Naples that "all of the Maradona affair is extremely complex" and that it felt it was its duty to maintain "absolute reserve." The statement didn't comment on La Repubblica's report.

The report was the latest woe for the Argentine star forward, who has had several disciplinary tangles with his team this season and who has been questioned by Naples prosecutors in connection with an investigation into a suspected drug trafficking-prostitution operation.

■ Disaster an 'Accident'

The deaths of 95 supporters of Liverpool's soccer team at the Hillsborough stadium on April 15, 1989 was ruled an accident on Thursday, Agence France-Presse reported from Sheffield, England.

An 11-member jury reached the decision, which was recommended by the coroner, Stefan Popper, at the end of an 80-day inquest.

A group representing the families of the dead condemned the verdict of accidental death as "shameful" and demanded that police officers who were on duty at Hillsborough that day three years ago be prosecuted.

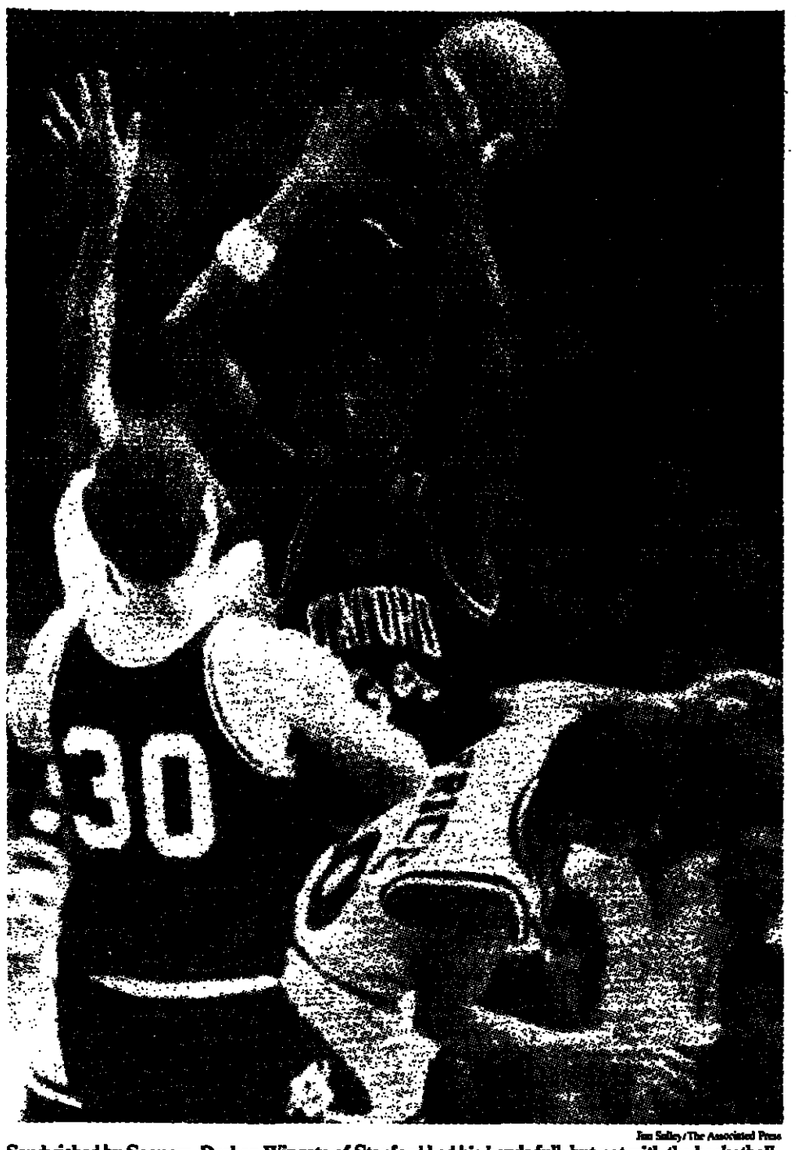
The 95 fans were mostly crushed to death at the start of an FA Cup semifinal between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest. Police opened the gates at one end of the stadium, allowing hundreds of spectators to pour into an already crowded enclosure.

■ Romanian Restructuring

Three Romanian first division soccer clubs are pioneering a break with state ownership by independent, shareholding companies, Reuters reported from Bucharest.

Bacau was the first team to become a self-financing, teaming up with a Romanian building firm.

Rapid of Bucharest organized another company with an Austrian firm and a third club, Brasov, joined a Romanian truck manufacturing plant.



Jim Talley/The Associated Press

Sandwiched by Sooners, Deshon Wingate of Stanford had his hands full, but not with the basketball.

NIT Title Ends Stanford Futility

By Sam Goldaper
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Playing for a postseason men's championship for the first time in 49 years, Stanford University took charge midway in the second half at Madison Square Garden and defeated Oklahoma, 78-72, to win the 54th National Invitation Tournament championship.

The only other postseason glory for Stanford's men's basketball team came in 1942, when it defeated Dartmouth in the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament final. Stanford won the NCAA women's basketball tournament last season.

The leading scorer for Stanford on Thursday night was Kenny Ammann, a senior guard, who had 22 points. Brent Price had 26 points to lead Oklahoma (20-15), which lost not only the game but also its coach, Billy Tubbs, who was ejected late in the first half.

Tubbs was ejected with 4 minutes, 38 seconds remaining in the first half after arguing what he thought was the failure of the officials to call a walking violation against Andrew Keefe, Stanford's 6-foot-9 star.

Tubbs became the first coach to be ejected from an NIT final in its 54-year history, according to Jack Powers, the former Manhattan College coach and the tournament's executive director.

Mickey Crowley, one of the three officials, quickly gave Tubbs his first technical foul when Tubbs said something he didn't like. When Tubbs continued to complain, Pete Pavia slapped him with the second technical foul, which calls for an automatic ejection and four technical foul shots.

John Patrick made all the free-throw attempts to give Stanford a 32-26 lead. Twelve seconds later, the Cardinal increased the advantage to 9 points, the biggest by either team in the first half, on a 3-point basket by Kenny Ammann, his second in five attempts.

Mike Anderson, one of Tubbs' aides, took over and the Sooners closed ranks as well as the gap. Not only that, but they also made a 9-0 run over the final 3:50 to take a 39-35 advantage at halftime.

Dreamland Coming on for Duke's Hurley

By Malcolm Moran
New York Times Service

DURHAM, North Carolina — Just when Bobby Hurley thought it was safe to go back to the final four.

Just when the dreams had disappeared for months and Hurley had exhibited more control over his emotions during his sophomore season as the point guard at Duke University, he will stand face to face with the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, the source of the oddly recurring images that followed him throughout last summer.

A year ago, with Hurley running the offense as a freshman, the Blue Devils advanced to the championship game of the National Collegiate Athletic Associaiton basketball tournament.

An achievement that for nearly any school would be considered a dream season took on a different meaning in the weeks and months after Hurley had more turnovers (5) than points (2) in the 103-73 loss to UNLV, the most one-sided championship game in the 52-year history of the tournament.

The images would reappear about once each week.

"I was swimming around in a pool and there were sharks in there," Hurley remembered. "They didn't really attack me or anything. It was just random pools. I saw the fin go through the water. At first I was scared, and then I wasn't because it didn't come after me."

Hurley could not recall if the sharks seemed to be arranged in any particular defensive alignment. At first, he did not even understand why they kept coming back.

"I said, 'Why do I keep doing this?' " Hurley recalled.

After the sharks followed Hurley back to school for about two weeks late last summer, he was talking to Greg Koubek, a teammate who was taking a course in dream analysis. Koubek combined the memory of the UNLV shark mascot and the Rebel coach, Jerry Tarkanian — known as Tark the Shark — and reached a conclusion.

"He said, 'It might be because of UNLV,' " Hurley said.

Aha.

If the Blue Devils are to create a different result in their semifinal meeting at the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis on Saturday night, Hurley will have to continue the improvement in an expanded game that has helped push Duke this far.

In 139 minutes of tournament play this month, Hurley has been credited with 27 assists while committing just 4 turnovers against teams that relied on defensive pressure. He has averaged 10.3 points and has made 7 of 20 3-point shots.

Hurley has made 42 more field goals than he did a year ago, including 30 more 3-point shots. He has reduced his turnovers from an average of 4.4 a game to 3.9.

In his team's 37 games this season, Hurley has had fewer than two assists for each turnover. But in the four tournament games, he has averaged 6.75 assists for each turnover.

The conditions this week are better than the ones that led to nightmares a year ago. Hurley was sick from a respiratory infection and a freshman's nerves. He went into the game just two days after enduring pressure from Arkansas in the semifinal victory.

This year the game will begin with five days of rest, and memories of a game that led teammates to cry.

"Games that I cry are games that are two- or three-point losses, where we gave everything we had," Hurley said. "You put your heart out on the floor. You left your heart there. I couldn't cry. I was shocked and I was embarrassed."

Final Four Statistical Matchups

North Carolina-Kansas	UNC	Kan	UNLV-Duke	UNLV	Duke
Record	29-5	26-7	Record	34-0	30-7
Avg. Pts.	88.1	84.8	Avg. Pts.	98.3	88.4
Opp. Avg. Pts.	71.4	69.4	Opp. Avg. Pts.	70.7	73.6
FG Pct.	.506	.527	FG Pct.	.537	.518
Opp. FG Pct.	.418	.431	Opp. FG Pct.	.397	.445
3-Pt. FG Pct.	.406	.396	3-Pt. FG Pct.	.408	.376
Opp. 3-Pt. FG Pct.	.317	.345	Opp. 3-Pt. FG Pct.	.373	.345
3-Pt. FG-Game	5.6	5.6	3-Pt. FG-Game	8.7	4.9
Opp. 3-Pt. FG-Game	5.7	4.3	Opp. 3-Pt. FG-Game	6.1	4.5
FT Pct.	.703	.685	FT Pct.	.697	.727
Reb. Avg.	41.6	37.6	Reb. Avg.	42.6	36.7
Opp. Reb. Avg.	34.5	34.5	Opp. Reb. Avg.	35.1	33.9
Rebound Margin	7.1	2.8	Rebound Margin	7.5	2.8
Ast. Avg.	20.1	18.6	Ast. Avg.	25.8	17.7
Opp. Ast. Avg.	14.8	12.4	Opp. Ast. Avg.	14.0	13.5
Avg. Steals	8.9	9.4	Avg. Steals	11.5	9.5

Sideline View of NCAA's Final Four: All Are Beatable, One Less So Than the Others

By Anthony Cotton
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Welcome to this year's meeting of the National Association of Basketball Coaches. The first topic on the agenda is the final four, more specifically, "How I could still be down on the sidelines coaching and not in the stands watching the final four if . . .

- I had enough quality players to match those of North Carolina.
- Someone could take the attack to Duke.
- It were possible to demystify the tradition and hot streak of Kansas.
- And, the biggest if of all, one could overcome the defensive pressure that has enabled Nevada-Las Vegas to win 45 straight games and stand on the verge of becoming the first repeat champion since UCLA in 1972 and '73.

"Duke is in a stretch where it's playing awfully well, but I'm going with Vegas to win it all," said Ohio State's coach, Randy Ayers. "They just play D and get after you too much."

That's not to say that Ayers and the other coaches consulted for this discussion believe the Runnin' Rebels are unbeatable. It's just that the circumstances have to be right.

Perhaps more than any other coach this weekend, Les Robinson of North Carolina State knows circumstances. During the regular season, the Wolfpack split Atlantic Coast Conference games with the Tar Heels and Blue Devils and lost a 105-94 decision at Kansas in January.

They had a game scheduled with UNLV but had to drop it last July because of conflicts with the date. "That was the only good news I got that whole month," Robinson said.

Calling himself the "resident expert" on this year's final four, Robinson said that North Carolina State's victories could be attributed to a pair of factors.

"You have to shoot extremely well — that's paramount," said Robinson. "We were running a motion offense, which I think helped because you're not going to get any easy shots in a set offense. The other thing was the atmosphere. For both games it was unbelievable, just electric, and I think that contributed to the way we shot."

North Carolina State shot 64 percent in a 95-89 victory over Duke on Jan. 23 and 55 percent in a 97-91 victory over the Tar Heels two weeks later. For all the excitement of the final four, playing in an arena the size of the Hoosier Dome could take away some of the urgent atmosphere.

Duke's mainstay is its overplaying defense, in which the guards push opposing ball-handlers out near midcourt while teammates edge between their man and the ball to try and intercept hurried passes.

To beat North Carolina, one must be able to deal with its half- and three-quarter court traps and the waves of substitutes.

"Forget about it if you think you're going to beat Dean Smith with mental gymnastics along the sideline," said John Chaney, whose Temple team lost to the Tar Heels in the East Regional final. "You need players. He has 12 to 14 All-Americas and in some situations you're going to have men going against boys."

Chaney sees problems in store for Duke against UNLV.

"Las Vegas is certainly a little tougher and all of their guys mix and match, play inside and out," he said. "That's a big advantage for them. Say Bobby Hurley has to play Stacey Augmon; if Augmon goes inside Hurley can't play Augmon anymore but Augmon is going to be able to play Hurley anywhere he goes."

The biggest problem in the semifinal between North Carolina and Kansas would seem to be telling one squad from the other. The Jayhawks' coach, Roy Williams, spent years as an assistant to Smith and this week, Williams joked that the two squads were so alike "we each may have to huddle together along the sidelines every time we put the ball in play so that the other won't know what play we're calling."

"Either way it comes out, 'the system' will win — that's a lock," said Robinson.

SIDELINES

Barkley Suspended, Fined $10,000

NEW YORK (AP) — Charles Barkley of the Philadelphia 76ers was suspended for one game without pay and fined $10,000 by the National Basketball Association on Thursday for spitting at a fan and using abusive language during a game.

Though the target of Barkley's spitting Tuesday night was a heckler sitting near the court, it hit an 8-year-old girl. The incident took place in the fourth quarter of a 98-95 overtime loss to the Nets in New Jersey.

"Obviously, it was wrong," Barkley said before the fine. "And I can't even begin to apologize about it because that's not good enough. It was just a bad, bad thing. Right now, I'm not in shape to talk about it."

Borg Confident, 'Very Eager' to Play

LONDON (AFP) — Bjorn Borg, the Swedish tennis legend who plans to attempt a comeback at the age of 34, says he is confident he can regain his past glory.

The six-time French Open winner said in an interview on BBC television that he has no doubts he will rediscover the form that made him the world's top player before his retirement eight years ago.

"Right now I'm very eager to play," he said, adding that he thinks his calm manner will help him. "You don't see too many players who have that kind of temperament now," he said.

Reynolds Appeals 2-Year Suspension

CINCINNATI (AP) — Butch Reynolds is asking a federal appeals court to throw out a two-year competition ban imposed after a sports group said he tested positive for steroids.

The former Ohio State track star asked the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Wednesday to throw out a ruling siding with The Athletic Congress, the track and field's governing body in the U.S., and the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

The Athletic Congress imposed the competition ban in October, announcing that two urine samples Reynolds supplied showed he had used a steroid. Reynolds contends the urine samples were not his.

Soviet Yacht Pulls Out of Competition

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Dennis Conner's sloop arrived for the first International America's Cup Class World Championships at about the same time that the Soviet Union pulled out of next month's competition.

The Red Star Syndicate announced Tuesday that its boat will not race in the world championships May 4-11 off San Diego. The Soviets decided that their crew won't have sufficient time to train between the vessel's mid-April arrival and the start of the Pre-Worlds Regatta on May 1.

For the Record

A survey has disclosed that although athletes at U.S. Division I colleges graduate at a higher rate than non-athletes, fewer than 40 percent of football and basketball players earn degrees in five years. The survey of 262 colleges was reported in the Chronicle of Higher Education. *(NYT)*

Scotty Bowman, longtime NHL coach and executive, and Neil Armstrong, a linesman, have been elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame. *(AP)*

Woosnam No. 1? Faldo Just Smiles

The Associated Press

PONTE VEDRA, Florida — Nick Faldo, leading the strong foreign contingent into the PGA's Players Championship, produced a tolerant smile for Ian Woosnam and a less tolerant opinion of the TPC at Sawgrass.

"Li'l Woosie," Faldo mused when Woosnam's weekend victory in New Orleans was mentioned.

Immediately following that triumph, the 24th of his career, Woosnam said he thought he deserved the No. 1 spot in the world rankings, a position occupied by Faldo.

"In '87, Woosie won eight tournaments around the world," Faldo said. "But he'd trade every one of them for the one I got. Ask Woosie. He'll tell you that."

Faldo won his first British Open title that season. He won his second last year, as well as a second consecutive Masters title.

Woosnam, a Welsh player who is Faldo's long-time partner on European Ryder Cup teams, has yet to win one of golf's major championships.

"He's an old comrade-in-arms," Faldo said. "He's a competitor, keeps you going."

And he's one of the group Faldo calls "the Big Six" who have dominated world golf in recent years.

The group also includes Seve Ballesteros and José Maria Olazábal of Spain, Sandy Lyle of Scotland and Bernhard Langer of Germany.

For the first time, all are entered in the event billed as the annual championship of golf's touring pros. The tournament was to begin Thursday on the home course for the American PGA Tour, the TPC at Sawgrass.

"It's very American, with all the water and bunkers," Faldo said of the course. "It doesn't set up well for me. It just doesn't flow."

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	50	19	.725	—
Philadelphia	38	31	.551	12
New York	34	36	.486	16½
Washington	26	42	.382	23½
New Jersey	23	47	.329	27½
Miami	21	49	.300	29½
Central Division				
x-Chicago	51	17	.750	—
x-Detroit	44	27	.620	9½
x-Milwaukee	42	28	.600	10
Atlanta	38	32	.543	14
Indiana	35	36	.493	17½
Cleveland	34	44	.436	22
Charlotte	28	49	.390	27½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Utah	46	23	.667	—
x-San Antonio	45	23	.662	½
x-Houston	44	24	.647	1½
Dallas	25	43	.368	20½
Orlando	25	43	.368	20½
Minnesota	22	46	.324	23½
Denver	18	51	.261	28
Pacific Division				
x-Portland	51	18	.739	—
x-L.A. Lakers	50	20	.714	1½
x-Phoenix	48	22	.686	3½
Golden State	36	33	.522	15
Seattle	32	37	.464	19
L.A. Clippers	27	44	.380	25
Sacramento	18	49	.269	32

x-clinched playoff berth

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Indiana 28 26 15 34— 103
Detroit 34 28 26 32—120

Person 8-16 2-2 18, Schrempf 8-13 1-1 17; Dumars 10-19 3-3 23, Rodman 8-12 3-4 19. Rebounds: Indiana 36 (Person 6), Detroit 57 (Rodman 19). Assists: Indiana 15 (Miller 5), Detroit 28 (Laimbeer, Dumars 6).

Orlando 22 22 27 26—97
Dallas 31 28 14 30—85

Reynolds 4-7 12-16 20, Skiles 6-11 6-6 18; Blackman 7-18 5-7 20, Williams 9-13 0-2 18. Rebounds: Orlando 60 (Kite 16), Dallas 49 (Donaldson 10). Assists: Orlando 17 (Skiles 8), Dallas 29 (Blackman 6).

Utah 34 22 22 21—89
L.A. Clippers 33 19 21 23—96

K. Malone 14-24 9-10 41, Stockton 7-17 3-4 17; Harper 12-21 3-4 29, Smith 10-15 2-2 22. Rebounds: Utah 47 (K.Malone 9), Los Angeles 42 (Smith, Polynice 7). Assists: Utah 21 (Stockton 10), Los Angeles 26 (Garland 9).

Portland 25 17 34 36—112
Seattle 27 34 23 23—107

Drexler 7-15 12-14 26, Kersey 8-19 8-10 24; Pierce 9-22 6-7 24, Johnson 7-19 2-2 16. Rebounds: Portland 68 (Kersey 11), Seattle 62 (Kemp 10). Assists: Portland 17 (Porter 7), Seattle 15 (Payton 6).

European Basketball

CHAMPION CLUBS' CUP
Quarterfinal Game Match
Barcelona 82, Kingston 76

KORAC CUP
Final, Second Leg
Cantu 95, Real Madrid 93
Cantu won 168-164 on aggregate

NIT Results

Wednesday, in New York
CHAMPIONSHIP
Stanford 78, Oklahoma 72

STANFORD
Vrdoljak 3-9, 8-12 14, Winquist 4-9 5-6 13, Keefe 5-18 2-2 12, Ammann 8-17 1-2 22, Patrick 2-5 7-8 12, Laidig 1-4 3-4 5, Garrett 0-0 0-0 0, Williams 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 23-54 25-34 78.

OKLAHOMA
Holmes 1-10 1-2 3, Webster 1-7 2-2 4, Sellier 10-17 4-4 24, Harris 3-5 0-0 8, Price 8-12 6-6 26, Evans 1-11 1-3 3, Ware 1-3 2-2 4. Totals 25-67 15-18 72.

Rebounds: Stanford 42 (Winquist 13), Oklahoma 36 (Sellier 10). Assists: Stanford 14 (Patrick 4), Oklahoma 17 (Price 5).

THIRD PLACE
Massachusetts 91, Colorado 78

MASSACHUSETTS
Barbee 3-12 1-2 7, Herndon 1-5 1-2 3, Williams 9-11 2-2 20, Brown 6-8 0-0 12, McCoy 8-18 11-12 27, Giles 7-14 0-0 18, Tate 1-1 1-2 3, Pace 0-0 0-0 0, Anderson 0-1 0-0 0, J.Robinson 0-1 0-0 0, Grodski 0-0 0-0 0, C.Robinson 0-0 0-0 0, Meyer 0-0 0-0 0, Firmin 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 35-72 14-20 91.

COLORADO
Guest 6-7 5-8 13, Hunter 3-6 3-6 11, Vandiver 12-18 10-12 34, Wise 5-8 2-5 12, Low 2-3 12-14 17, R.Robinson 1-7 0-2, Walters 2-4 0-0 4, Terrell 0-0 0-0 0, Markham 1-1 0-0 2, Mann 0-0 0-0 0, Elmburg 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 30-53 33-45 98.

Rebounds: Massachusetts 32 (McCoy, Tate 6), Colorado 34 (Guest 9). Assists: Massachusetts 29 (Brown 7), Colorado 18 (Hunter 5).

HOCKEY

NHL Standings

WALES CONFERENCE

Patrick Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
y-Pittsburgh	41	22	5	87	335	295
x-N.Y. Rangers	35	30	13	83	286	256
New Jersey	32	31	15	79	270	257
Washington	25	35	7	77	249	253
Philadelphia	33	36	9	75	248	260
N.Y. Islanders	23	44	10	56	215	282
Adams Division						
y-Boston	43	23	12	98	289	256
x-Montreal	38	29	11	87	268	242
x-Buffalo	30	30	17	77	278	267
x-Hartford	31	37	10	72	230	264
Quebec	15	49	13	43	225	345

CAMPBELL CONFERENCE

Norris Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Chicago	47	22	8	102	273	205
x-St. Louis	44	22	11	99	300	247
x-Detroit	33	37	8	74	286	288
x-Minnesota	26	37	14	66	248	257
Toronto	23	44	11	57	234	306
Smythe Division						
x-Los Angeles	45	23	10	100	321	244
x-Calgary	45	25	7	97	330	258
x-Edmonton	35	37	5	75	256	260
Vancouver	27	43	9	63	240	313
Winnipeg	26	41	11	63	252	279

x-clinched playoff berth

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Pittsburgh 2 1 3—7
Detroit 1 3 1—5

Coffey (23), Trottier (9), Stevens (39), Francis (23), Jagr 2 (26), S. Young (17), Miller (20), Crossman (8), Yeboort (17), Burr (20). Shots on goal: Pittsburgh (on Cheveldae, Hanlon) 9-8-9—26, Detroit (on Pietranaste) 12-11-9—32.

Hartford 0 3 0 0—3
New Jersey 2 0 1 1—4

Zalapski (15), Verbeek 2 (43), Muller (19), Shanahan (28), D. Brown 2 (14). Shots on goal: Hartford (on Burke) 10-15-2-0—27, New Jersey (on Sidorkiewicz) 4-7-4-3—25.

BASEBALL

Exhibition Games

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

Minnesota 10, Philadelphia 4
Houston 2, St. Louis 1
Atlanta 2, New York Yankees 0
Boston 9, Cincinnati 4
Toronto 6, Detroit 7, 13 innings
Baltimore 17, Los Angeles 9
Cleveland 5, Seattle 4
Chicago Cubs 5, California 3
New York Mets 6, Montreal 1
Pittsburgh 10, Texas 4
(ss denotes split-squad games)

SOCCER

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
Group Two
Romania 3, San Marino 1
Scotland 1, Bulgaria 1
Group Five
Belgium 1, Wales 1
Group Seven
England 1, Ireland 1
INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES
Germany 2, Soviet Union 1
Morocco 0, Greece 0
Spain 2, Hungary 4

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
National League
ATLANTA—Optioned Kelly Mann and Jim Kremers, catchers, to Richmond, International League. Sent Randy Kramer, pitcher, to minor league camp for reassignment.
HOUSTON—Optioned Randy Hennis, pitcher, to Tucson. Sent Kevin Coffman, Terry Clark and Dan Murphy, pitchers, to minor league camp for reassignment. Sent Bert Hunter, outfielder, outright to Tucson. Released Darnell Coles, outfielder, from non-roster invitation.
N.Y. METS—Assigned Blaine Beatty, pitcher, to minor-league camp for reassignment.
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
NBA—Fined Chuck Person, Indiana forward, $2,500 for twice kicking balls into stands after being ejected from March 23 game; James Worthy, L.A. Lakers' forward, $1,000 for initiating incident in March 24 game; and Sedale Threatt, Seattle guard, $1,000 for retaliating against Worthy.
L.A. CLIPPERS—Put Ken Bannister, center, on injured list. Activated Mike Smrek, center.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
CLEVELAND—Signed John Rienstra, offensive guard.
DETROIT—Signed Sean Vanhorse, cornerback.
L.A. RAMS—Signed Benjamin Thomas, Jr., defensive tackle; Michael Lindsey, linebacker; and Darren Grudt, offensive guard.
MIAMI—Signed Ned Bolcar, linebacker, to two-year contract.
N.Y. JETS—Signed Bobby Houston, linebacker.
SAN DIEGO—Signed Goland Thaxton, linebacker.
TAMPA BAY—Signed Jamie Lawson, fullback.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
HARTFORD—Signed Ed Johnston, general manager, to three-year contract extension through May, 1995.
N.Y. RANGERS—Sent Jeff Bloemberg, defenseman, to Binghamton, American Hockey League.
COLLEGE
ARIZONA STATE—David Tisdell, linebacker, left the football team.
EAST CAROLINA—Named Eddie Payne men's basketball coach.
IONA—Named Jerry Welsh men's basketball coach.
KANSAS STATE—Named Patti Haasemeyer women's volleyball coach.
MONTEVALLO—Named Rob Selvery athletic director.
NAVY—Named Kevin Kiesel defensive line coach.
OLD DOMINION—Named Oliver Purnell men's basketball coach.
PITTSBURGH—Named Marty Galbraith tight ends and kickers coach.
STONY BROOK—Named Matt Senk baseball coach.
WILLIAM & MARY—Named Trina Thomas women's basketball coach.

WLAF Finale Set For Wembley

The Associated Press

LONDON — Five days after opening its inaugural season, the World League of American Football on Thursday announced where that season will end.

The league's president, Mike Lynn, said the 10-team WLAF, which has clubs in five countries, will hold its first championship game June 9 in London's Wembley Stadium.

Lynn said it was appropriate that a European city should be the host for the first World Bowl, since the WLAF is the first trans-Atlantic professional sports league.

"We are an international league and we feel it's important to play our championship game in an international city," he said.

Seven other cities had expressed interest in the game, Lynn said, including some without WLAF teams. Moscow and Paris were two cities mentioned.

The Monarchs have their home opener Sunday against the New York Knights at Wembley. Monarch officials said 30,000 tickets have been sold and they hope for a crowd of more than 40,000.

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OBSERVER

McCartney vs. Astaire

By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — Correction: Contrary to information conveyed in a recent column, it was not John Lennon who sang "Why Don't We Do It in the Road?" As many readers have pointed out, it was Paul McCartney. This column regrets the error.

Correction: An utterly erroneous interpretation of the song "Why Don't We Do It in the Road?" appeared recently in this column. It was incorrect to suggest that this song was evidence that romance in America died with the advent of rock 'n' roll music and was replaced by carnal licentiousness.

The song "Why Don't We Do It in the Road?" was, in fact, an attempt by Paul McCartney to satirize the vulgar lyrical tendency of the Rolling Stones. The correct interpretation which this column, with more research, should have presented is that "Why Don't We Do It in the Road?" marked a fresh intellectual approach to popular music. This column regrets the error.

Correction: In referring several years ago to the music of the Rolling Stones, this column stated erroneously that due to the overamplification of the performers' instruments combined with the atrocious diction of their principal singer, Mick Jagger, it was impossible for the human ear to discern whether the group was singing "Ave Maria" or "Why Don't We Do It in the Road?"

□

However, since the group never performed "Why Don't We Do It in the Road?" it would have been quite possible for any human ear functioning in tandem with a brain to deduce that since the song being performed could not be "Why Don't We Do It in the Road?" it must therefore be "Ave Maria." This column regrets the error.

Correction: A recent column suggesting that Fred Astaire's renditions of popular songs spoke of an excessively romantic and, hence, unrealistic view of matters between the sexes wrongly conveyed the impression that Astaire would have been incapable of making a successful record of the song "Why Don't We Do It in the Road?"

Admirers of Astaire have written to point out that, due to his skill at rendering popular song material, he was capable not only of singing "Why Don't We Do It in the Road?" as triumphantly as he sang "The Way You Look Tonight," but also of outdancing Mick Jagger while singing it. This column regrets the erroneous imputation.

Correction: As many senior citizens have pointed out, a column raising philosophical questions about romance carried a strong implication that persons of their generation would have been repelled by the song "Why Don't We Do It in the Road?" because they lacked temperament and/or vigor necessary to respond to the impulse celebrated in the lyric.

This column denies any intention to denigrate senior citizens by suggesting that youth of the 1930s and 1940s were more loath than today's youth to do things in the road.

□

Correction: As many middle-aged persons have pointed out, a recent column touching on their generation's respect for John Lennon erroneously implied that people their age become angry when they hear John Lennon's name on parents' lips. This, they point out, stereotyped their generation outrageously and demeaned all middle-aged children.

The easily ascertainable fact, they point out, is that what they feel is not anger toward parents speaking Lennon's name, but only contempt for the few so ignorant of cultural history that they think it was John Lennon who sang "Why Don't We Do It in the Road?" This column regrets the erroneous implication.

Correction: A recent column discussing the cultural concept of "romance" and its association with ballroom dancing incorrectly suggested that dancing required two persons to study and master systematized and coordinated movements which are performed in rhythmic harmony with music.

This error, as many readers have pointed out, led to the erroneous conclusion that it was therefore impossible to dance to the song "Why Don't We Do It in the Road?"

Except for its intellectual laziness and utter carelessness, these readers note, this column might have realized that a song like "Why Don't We Do It in the Road?" was the ideal music to dance with yourself by. This column regrets the error.

New York Times Service

Driving British Tourists to the Right

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

DOVER, England — What the British have been doing by law since 1835 and naturally for even longer is seen by many Europeans as yet another example of Albion's aloofness.

Driving on the left.

Nearly 40 other countries do it, including the Japanese, but within the 12-nation European Community only the United Kingdom and Ireland stay on the left.

Because a large body of water surrounds the British Isles, this has never been much of a problem. The ferry crossing acts as a kind of psychological break, giving drivers time to prepare mentally for traveling on the "wrong" side.

But within a couple of years, millions of drivers will be traveling through the Channel tunnel. The tunnel will make it much easier to cross, and may increase the possibility of accidents, particularly if a lot of people unused to driving on the Continent decide to venture abroad.

Preparing for that, road safety authorities in Britain and France have begun a campaign to remind British drivers to stay on the right when driving on Continental highways.

Under a plan sponsored by Britain's Automobile Association and La Prévention Routière, France's road safety organization, British drivers going to the Continent this summer will be handed a leaflet containing advice about different driving habits and a bright yellow decal to stick inside their cars.

The decals have a drawing of an owl pointing right, and the words "KEEP RIGHT."

The Automobile Association also has installed hundreds of signs containing the same motif around French ports and rail terminals.

At a ceremony in Dover marking the start of the campaign, Simon Dyer, the director general of the Automobile Association, urged British drivers to keep one of the stickers constantly in view while driving on the Continent. He added, "When you return after what I hope will be a safe and enjoyable holiday, for goodness' sake don't forget to take the sticker off."

He said the next stage would be a campaign to remind Continental drivers to keep left when driving in Britain.

The last country in mainland Europe to switch from driving on the left to the right was Sweden in 1967. The switch, which was intended to reduce accidents in border areas and bring Sweden in line with the rest of Europe, took four years to prepare and cost $120 million. A similar operation in Britain today would cost billions of pounds — money that road safety authorities say would be better spent, even if the government had it, on improving highways and driver education.

"KEEP RIGHT" sign going up in Dover for embarking motorists.

Although driving on the left is one of the many things that mark Britain as being different from its partners in the EC, Christopher Chope, the British minister for roads and traffic, said that the possibility of his country's following the Swedish example was out of the question.

"I haven't looked at the possibility, and I wouldn't wish to deploy resources on it," he said. Chope added that he saw no room for compromise. "You can either drive on the left or you can drive on the right. There is no way of having a compromise in the middle. I see no reason why the people of this country should have to change the habits of a lifetime, and of generations, just because we are members of the European Community."

The British Highway Act of 1835 made it a legal obligation to drive on the left, long before most European countries had a similar law.

There was good precedent for the decision. Since the mists of time, horsemen and soldiers on foot habitually kept to the left when meeting one another. This enabled them to keep their right sword arm free and their unguarded left flank toward the hedge.

In addition, according to the Royal Automobile Club in London, coach and wagon drivers in Britain usually sat on top of their vehicles and to the right so that they could wield their whips freely with their right hands. The brake handles also were fitted on the right, and it thus became natural to pull to the left when meeting another vehicle.

In Europe, it was much more common for coach and wagon drivers to ride postilion on one of the horses. They usually sat on the rearmost horse on the left so that they could control the team with their right hand. This made it more natural to pass oncoming vehicles on the right. A similar situation existed in the United States, where the ubiquitous Conestoga wagons and their descendants, the prairie schooners, were usually driven from the postilion position. Frank Kenel, retired staff director for traffic safety for the American Automobile Association, said the position of the brakes on the wagons also made it practical to pull to the right.

Railways generally circulated on the left, but vehicles with the new-fangled internal combustion engine followed the ways of the horse-drawn wagons, and, by 1914, most American cars were produced with the steering wheel on the left.

Some manufacturers, including Pierce-Arrow and Stutz, continued to produce right-hand drive cars for many years, however, because this made it easier for chauffeurs to drive up to the curb and open the rear door quickly.

For the same reason, many European luxury cars continued to be produced with the steering wheel on the right until after World War II. Bugatti never made a car with the steering wheel on the left, and Lancia stopped producing its cars with the steering wheel on the right in 1956, and then only because it wanted to increase sales in the United States. Heavy trucks in Italy, which are not supposed to overtake, and postal trucks in the United States are produced with the steering wheel on the right.

Colin Cook, international manager for Jaguar PLC in Coventry, said that about half the more than 3,500 cars the company expects to ship to Japan this year will have the steering wheel on the left.

Why? Apart from being more convenient for chauffeurs, he said, left-hand-drive cars are considered chic in Japan, perhaps for the same reason that big left-hand-drive American cars have a certain snob appeal in Britain.

The first Japanese autos were built under license from Britain and therefore had the steering wheel on the right. After the war, the only automobiles available were American models. They were difficult to get hold of and therefore a status symbol, Cook said.

The Automobile Association's Dyer said the keep-right campaign is more preventive than a reaction to a large number of accidents involving British drivers.

In fact, Britain's safety record is reasonably good, particularly in comparison with the French, whose 10,000 fatalities last year was about twice as many as in the United Kingdom.

Driving as they do with limited forward vision makes British drivers cautious about overtaking. But accidents tend to happen during a forgetful lapse or a moment of confusion, Dyer said, which is why drivers are being asked to stick the keep right decals in a prominent place.

Although Matra of France in the early 1970s proposed a three-seater sports car with the steering wheel in the middle, the most outrageous idea for dealing with the problem came from BMW's British subsidiary.

Last April Fool's day, it advertised a right-hand drive car with a spare steering mechanism and instrument panel in the glove compartment on the left. A BMW spokesman said several hundred people called the company's "Uwe Vörlen Vörrit," many of them seriously eager to know where they could get their hands on such a car.

PEOPLE

Prince Charles Loses Fight on Statue's Export

The British government has reclassified a 19th century marble statue of Greek goddesses, clearing the way for its export to California. Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, last year headed a campaign to keep "The Three Graces," by the Italian sculptor Antonio Canova, in England. The statue was originally classified as part of the fixtures and fittings of Woburn Abbey, north of London. Its export was banned in an attempt to protect the British heritage in the face of an increasingly competitive world art market. But Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, said the statue was "a chattel, not a fixture, and therefore not part of the listed building where it formerly stood." The decision clears the way for a Cayman Islands investment company, which bought the statue for £7.6 million (about $13 million at current rates) to take it out of the country. It has been reported the statue will be taken to the Getty Museum in California.

□

Zulema Yoma de Menem, 48, has filed for divorce from **Carlos Saúl Menem**, 60, president of Argentina, saying he had exposed her to extreme public humiliation. Last June, in an incident that was televised live, Menem used armed guards to prevent his wife from entering the presidential residence in Buenos Aires. The couple have had a stormy marriage for 24 years. Menem filed for divorce in 1987, but they reconciled.

□

Austria awarded its highest honor to Vienna-born **Billy Wilder**, the director of "Sunset Boulevard," "Some Like It Hot" and "The Front Page." The Golden Order, First Class for Meritorious Services Rendered to the Republic of Austria, was presented to the 83-year-old Wilder in a ceremony in Los Angeles. Wilder at one time was a journalist in Vienna."

□

Prime Minister John Major of Britain took one look at his lifesize waxwork double unveiled at London's Madame Tussaud's museum on Thursday and declared he looked grayer than in real life. It was not clear, however, whether he was referring to the color of his hair or to being dubbed a "gray man" in some quarters.

TODAY'S
REAL ESTATE MARKETPLACE
Appears on Page 6

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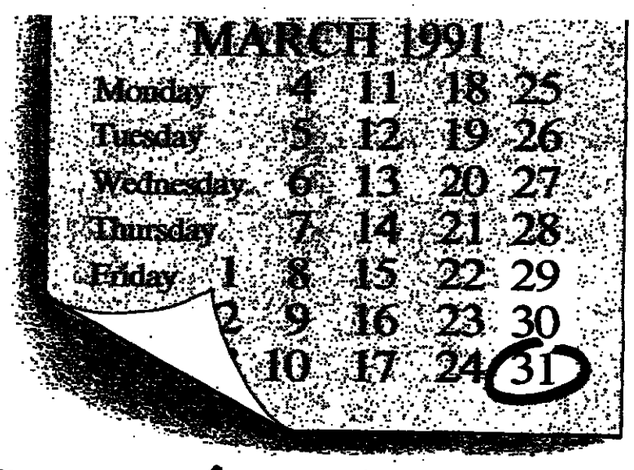

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